

Take a friend  
to a concert  
for 30p  
Details and  
token  
PAGE 36

## Future shocks

Ralph Fiennes  
in a sordid  
vision of 2000  
CINEMA, P37



## BODY AND MIND

Dr Thomas  
Stuttaford  
on hearts  
under strain  
PAGE 16



## BOOKS

Imogen Stubbs  
reviews a  
newly-found  
children's book  
by Sylvia Plath  
PAGES 40, 41

## APPOINTMENTS

24 pages of top jobs,  
SECTION 3



# Princess agrees to divorce

**'Her Royal Highness'**  
prefix to be dropped  
from Diana's new title

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND ALAN HAMILTON

THE Princess of Wales last night announced she had agreed to a divorce and given up her right to be called Her Royal Highness.

The agreement formally to end the marriage was made at a meeting between the Prince and Princess of Wales at her office at St James's Palace late yesterday afternoon. A spokesman for the Princess said: "The Princess of Wales will be known as Diana, Princess of Wales, from now on." Palace spokesman said: "She agreed to give it up as part of the discussions."

spokesman said: "She agreed to give it up as part of the discussions."

No discussions have been held so far about a financial settlement which is expected to run into millions of pounds.

"Lawyers began negotiations

The Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions relating to her sons and will live at Kensington Palace. The spokesman said: "She is feeling very sad that it is all over. But she is happy that clear arrangements have been put in place for the boys. That is a main thing."

The statement said: "The Princess of Wales has agreed to Prince Charles's request for a divorce. The Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions relating to the children and will remain at Kensington Palace with offices in St James's Palace. The Princess of Wales will retain the title and be known as Diana Princess of Wales."

Pressure to end the failed marriage was given added impetus shortly before Christmas when the Queen, fearing long term damage to the monarchy, wrote to both the Prince and Princess urging a speedy divorce. Her letter came after an interview given by the Princess to the BBC

A Palace spokesman said: "The Queen was most interested to hear that the Princess of Wales had agreed to the divorce. We can confirm that the Prince and Princess of Wales had a private meeting this afternoon at St James's Palace. At this meeting details of the divorce settlement and the Princess's future role were not discussed. All the details remain to be discussed and settled. This will take

time."

She agreed to give up

the title that was a gift

to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

Spokesman said: "She agreed to give up the title that was a gift to her from her late husband, Prince Charles.

Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private Secretary and the Prince's brother-in-law, The Princess's press

## A single, shared experience is one too many for some

THIS would be, Virginia Bottomley hoped, "a single, shared experience for the whole nation". What would be? Princess Diana's divorce? Or is the phenomenon of Mrs Bottomley itself a single, shared experience for the whole nation one we have been sharing for years to mixed reviews?

The experience improves. As National Heritage Secretary Mrs B has lost the robotic eye-movements which marked her performance as Health Secretary. Relaxed and in folksy style

she had come to explain why Greenwich had been chosen to be the site of the Millennium Exhibition. This was what was to be the single, shared experience.

But not quite for the whole nation. There are pockets of resistance. Terry Dicks (C Hayes and Harlington) greeted Mrs Bottomley's enthusiasm for a "Circle of Time" exhibition with derisive boos. "There will be different interpretations of Time," Mrs B gurgled. "Action Time, Past Time..." "Waste of Time," snorted

Dicks, Nigel Forman (C, Carshalton) grinning, shook his head in despair.

"It will regenerate the cultural fabric of the country," chanted La Bottomley. Dicks rolled his eyes towards heaven and clasped his hands in mock prayer for deliverance.

"My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister," she sang, "has today announced that he has asked my Rt Hon Friend the Deputy Prime Minister to chair a co-ordinating group" This shock development was greeted by gales of laughter

**MATTHEW PARKER**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

from both sides of the Chamber. Mrs Bottomley was unable to suppress a girlish giggle.

Her Labour Shadow, Jack Cunningham, aimed for grandiloquence in a Geordie

extenuated process. "Externated" crackled Conservatives, reminding us of Tony Blair on the *Today* programme after a bomb: "This is discreditable." New Labour, new dictionary.

Sadly the attempt crashed before take-off. "This," he declared, weightily, "has been a somewhat

provide inspiration for us all as we move toward the future." Mr Dicks began choking.

Also choking were the West Midlands's Jeff Rooker (Lab), Sir Norman Fowler (C), and John Butcher (C), as Sir Michael Jopling (C, Westmorland and Lonsdale) told MPs with a vicious snarl, that "Birmingham is just somewhere you go through on the way to London". Fowler choked.

And a new pocket of resistance opened up: John Biffen (C, Shropshire N) asked mild-

ly whether Mrs Bottomley could create a "millennium-free zone" to shelter "all those who do not wish to be deafened and drenched by millennium-mania" for the next three and a half years.

Bottomley treated him to a good deal less snarlily than Mr Biffen treated me 14 years ago when I asked him, as Leader of the House, whether

being "agreed" if "not the mechanism". We have that rather than, obviously, the agreement on the way forward itself, but at least it maintains momentum." How true. But how extenuated.

"We do not support you. We abhor what you are doing. We want our peace back."

## IRA terrorists defy family at O'Brien funeral

BY NICHOLAS WATT IN GOREY

THE IRA defied the family of Edward O'Brien, the 21-year-old Aldwych bomber, when leading terrorists attended his funeral yesterday in Gorey, Co Wexford. A week after O'Brien's parents called on the IRA to stay away, a group of republicans slipped into St Michael's Roman Catholic Church for yesterday's service.

Raymond McCartney, a convicted IRA terrorist and former hunger striker, sat uneasily on a bench in a side aisle with four other republicans, including Willie McGuinness. They were surrounded by hundreds of local people who packed the church to express their sympathy for O'Brien's parents, Miley and Margo.

Father Walter Forde, the local priest, echoed the sense of disbelief in Gorey when he said that people were trying to work out how the son of such a respectable family had been drawn into the "sordid and terrible world of terrorism". He told the congregation in the church where O'Brien had served as an altarboy: "They will try to make sense of... how his misguided idealism was hijacked, reshaped and distorted by the Godfathers of violence."

In a powerful homily, Father Forde contrasted the courage of the O'Brien family in disowning violence with the "evil world of terrorism". As the republicans sat impassively in the church, he said: "The past ten days have brought us face to face with two images of Ireland. On the one hand we have seen the dark side of this island where a tiny minority who speak for nobody but themselves hijacked our peace and disfigured our identity... The other image of Ireland...



McCartney: terrorist and hunger striker

Scores of republican supporters, including the Brixton jailbreakers Nessa Quinlivan and Pearse McAuley, and Pamela Kane, a convicted IRA terrorist, stood to attention when the coffin was wheeled from the church. Raymond McCartney is one of the IRA's most notorious terrorists. He was sentenced to two life terms in 1977 for the murder of an RUC officer in Londonderry in January that year and for the murder of a businessman the next month. He was released in July 1994. McCartney sat with Mr McGuinness, the brother of

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator with the British Government. In 1991 Willie McGuinness was charged with IRA membership in the Republic, but was later acquitted.

Nessa Quinlivan and Pearse McAuley are currently on bail in the Republic fighting extradition to Britain where they are wanted to face charges of escaping from Brixton Prison in 1991. At the time of their alleged escape they were awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy to murder Sir Charles Tidbury, the former head of Whitbread, and conspiracy to cause explosions.

Quinlivan and McAuley looked on as Mrs O'Brien, who was shaking with grief, was supported from the church by her younger son Garry, 14. Mr O'Brien walked next to his daughter Lorraine, 20, who carried a single red rose.

Up to 2,000 people, including scores of republicans, then joined the family for a slow half-mile walk behind the hearse to the cemetery.

Within minutes of the graveyard service republicans walked up to the grave to pay respects to their "volunteer". A member of Sinn Fein said that republicans had respected the family's wishes by not mounting a paramilitary display.

She said: "We are here in a personal capacity. We always respect the wishes of the family in these cases."

Later Father Forde criticised republicans for attending the funeral. He said: "The presence was a matter of much regret. They should have stayed away when they were told to do so by the family."



Nessa Quinlivan, centre, attending the funeral service yesterday against the O'Brien family's request that republicans stay away.

## Bomber muddled pm and am d/timer

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA bomber Edward O'Brien blew himself up because he set the timer on the device for 10.30pm instead of 10.30am the following morning, according to police and security investigators.

O'Brien had a 24-hour timing mechanism linked to the Sib Semtex bomb which he was carrying in a bag on the No 171 bus that exploded on February 18. He is believed to have intended placing the bomb in or near the Law Courts in the Strand to go off the next morning.

Investigators, building up a picture of the bomber's last moments, believe that he had set the clock before rising from his seat on the upper deck and the bomb exploded as he was getting off the bus, with ten



O'Brien died as he was getting off bus

people on board, travelling from New Cross to King's Cross and blew up in the Aldwych near the Strand, just after 10.30pm.

O'Brien's mistake showed the 21-year-old's lack of experience with explosives. The 24-hour clock has often been used by the IRA in timers on previous bombs.

Security sources said it would not have been unusual for the IRA to follow the initial "spectacular" bomb at Canary Wharf which killed two, injured about 100 and caused damage of more than £100 million, with a series of smaller devices designed to cause fear and panic.

One such device was discovered in a telephone kiosk in Charing Cross Road in central

London, and defused, six days after the Docklands bombing. The intention may have been to give enough warning of the Law Courts bomb for an evacuation of thousands of people that would have

had to assume there is more than one bomb cache.

The driver of the bombed bus longs to thank the stranger who "saved his life", his daughter said yesterday.

Bob Newitt recalls virtually

nothing of the incident. "He remembers that somebody stopped and stayed with him until the ambulance men got there and that is it," Victoria Newitt said on GMTV. "I don't know who the stranger was as he would really just thank him himself for saving him with him being a bit of a wimp as he is concerned."

Mr Newitt received blast injuries to his back and shock waves damaged his chest cavity and lungs. He left intensive care last week and is "comfortable" at University College Hospital, London.

## June 10 set for start of Ulster talks

Continued from page 1

by the fact that the IRA might decide to continue their campaign. The IRA violence did not cause us to have this meeting and it is not going to cause us to alter the timetable in any way. We earnestly hope that the IRA will make it possible for Sinn Fein to take part in the negotiations. They need to reinstate the ceasefire of August 1994."

Mr Major said: "Until the ceasefire is restored, both

governments have made clear that there can be no ministerial talks with Sinn Fein." He added: "The two governments will carry forward that process irrespective of such action."

The package agreed by the two prime ministers includes "intensive multilateral consultations" between the two governments and the parties from March 4 to March 13. They will cover areas on which it has not been pos-

sible to reach agreement the format for the elections, likely to be held in late May; the shape of the all-party negotiations; and the possibility of a peace referendum north and south of the border, on the same day as the election, to demonstrate popular support for an end to violence.

As Mr Major made clear both at the press conference and in a statement to MPs later, the two governments will impose solutions if the

Leading article, page 19

## Leaders are agreed on way ahead

The following is an extract from the Anglo-Irish communiqué issued yesterday:

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach affirmed the fundamental priority they attach to securing the earliest possible inclusive negotiations should include all relevant parties which establish a peaceful and non-violent, and immediately address decommissioning of weapons.

"Having undertaken the intensive consultations and the elective process as set out

below, all-party negotiations will be convened on Monday June 10, 1996.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed the British Government's view that, having taken account of the differing positions of the parties and the view of the International Body, an elective process would offer a viable direct and speedy route to all-party negotiations. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed that an elective process would have to be broadly acceptable and lead immediately and without fur-

ther preconditions to the convening of all-party negotiations with a comprehensive agenda.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed that details of an elective process will be for the parties in Northern Ireland, together with the British Government, to determine. The Prime Minister confirmed that the necessary legislation for a broadly acceptable elective process would be processed as rapidly as possible.

The Taoiseach, for his part

indicated that the Irish Government would support any proposal of that kind...

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed that the two Governments will review the outcome of these consultations immediately after their conclusion on 13 March. Following that, the British Government will bring forward legislation on the elective process, based on a judgment on what seems most broadly acceptable, and decisions will be announced, as appropriate...

"From sheets crumpled as though by a storm rose his naked body, his whole being breathed forth the melancholy of perfect works of art."

**LISTEN TO OTHER  
PEOPLE MAKE LOVE  
IN YOUR BED.**

Colette's 'Chéri', as heard on Book at Bedtime. We give a good airing to novels, plays, short stories and sitcoms. The characters may not always behave themselves, but the stories are always compelling. Book at Bedtime, 10.45pm. The Late Book, half-past midnight.

**BBB RADIO 4**  
92-95 FM 198 LW

Details of settlement will concern future of children and a 'clean-break' financial deal

# Princess may get one-off payment of about £15m

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

**LAWYERS** for the Prince and Princess of Wales are preparing to hammer out the details of a divorce settlement which will embrace the upbringing of their children as well as their own finances.

At the heart of the discussions, which could run to several weeks, will be the education of Prince William, 13, and Prince Harry, 11 and what preparation they will undertake for public life.

Anthony Julius, the Princess's lawyer, said last night: 'We have reached agreement in principle. We now have to work out the drafting of the agreement, the financial terms and matters relating to the children.'

As well as the Princess's upbringing, there is the question of where they will live and what access each of their parents will have to them. At present, under the terms of separation, the Prince and Princess have equal access to

## LEGAL POSITION

their children. Last night's statement makes it clear that the Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions regarding them.

The 'agreement in principle' between the couple was believed to have been reached after resolution of the question of the Princess's title. Now the details of her finances are to be worked out.

The settlement is likely to involve a multimillion-pound deal on the basis of a clean break between the couple.

This means that the Prince would not have to make continuing payments to his former wife but would pay her a one-off settlement.

There has been speculation that a sum of £15 million would be provided, which would give the Princess a net income of £500,000 a year. Such a lump-sum payment by the Prince would depend upon financial assistance from the Queen, who would be an inter-

ested party in the future of the young Princes.

The Duke of Cornwall provides an annual income for the Prince and Princess of an estimated £3.5 million after tax, of which the Prince spends £2 million on official expenses and £1.5 million on private expenditure. Dividend income from the Prince's £2 million Stock Exchange portfolio nets an additional £50,000 a year.

As Duke of Cornwall, the Prince controls assets worth more than £90 million. But the Duchy is in trust for future Princes of Wales and cannot sell assets to raise cash.

The Princess's personal wealth is less obvious. Her brother, Earl Spencer, inherited the bulk of the family fortune including Althorp, the ancestral home. But she does have possession of jewellery worth an estimated £20 million. However, it is unclear whether she or the Crown owns the jewels.

Once agreement is reached, the divorce will go through on the basis of consent, after separation of two years. The process will be the same as with any other couple, starting with a petition being filed in the County Court or Divorce Registry in London, and could be completed in a matter of weeks. The petition sets out the grounds why the petitioner is seeking a divorce, together with the proposed arrangements for the children.

Once divorce papers are filed, it will be for the court registrar to certify the divorce. It should be granted after he has satisfied himself that all the papers are in order. The case will then be listed to go before a district judge for a formal announcement of the decree nisi.

When the list is read out — none of the parties has to attend court — the marriage will be well on its way to being consigned to history. Some six weeks later, the decree absolute should follow, leaving both parties free to remarry.

Mr Julius, of Mishcon de Reya, heads the negotiations for the Princess. The Prince of Wales's lawyer is Fiona Shackleton, a partner with the Queen's solicitors, Parris & Co.



The marriage that began with a kiss on the balcony will come to an end in the divorce courts. Neither is likely to attend the hearings

## Outcome was inevitable after separation

By ROBIN YOUNG

**SINCE** their separation in December 1992, it has seemed inevitable that the Prince and Princess of Wales's marriage would end in divorce.

At first it was thought the grounds would be two years' separation, and that the divorce would be completed by the end of 1994. In 1993 the Princess's lawyers were thought to be pressing for an earlier divorce on grounds that they had, in effect, been separated for five years before the public announcement.

However, by August of that year she was recognised as having had a change of heart, because of fears that she would be frozen out by the rest of the Royal Family and would lose the public role in which she had found some solace.

Her lawyers then began to seek an 'accommodation for the future' whereby she and Prince Charles could continue to lead separate lives.

It was at this time that Lord Mishcon, the Labour peer and one of the country's top solicitors, joined the Princess's legal team. It then became clear that any move for an early divorce would have to be made by the Prince: the Princess would

resist it unless she was guaranteed custody of the children and secured a public admission that the divorce was Prince Charles's responsibility. Lord Mishcon negotiated with the late Lord Goodman, then representing Prince Charles, seeking some constitutionally acceptable settlement short of divorce.

In June 1994, the Prime Minister gave the Government's full backing to an assertion by the Prince of Wales in his television interview with Jonathan Dimbleby that divorce would not stand

in the way of his becoming King. The same interview contained the Prince's public admission of adultery.

Throughout 1994 there was speculation about the size of the settlement the Princess would demand for agreeing to a divorce. Figures from £15 million to £24 million, said to have been secured by the Princess's personal lawyer, Paul Butter, were quoted in newspapers, to be followed by reports insisting that she had

not received any money and was not asking for any.

In her television interview on *Panorama* in November, the Princess repeated her opposition to a divorce, emphasising that the decision lay with her husband, and appealed for a role as a public ambassador, voicing her ambition to be 'a Queen of hearts'. Those close to the Queen and the Prince immediately suggested that the Princess might be allowed to keep some form of royal status if the divorce went ahead.

Shortly before Christmas, the Queen's patience ran out and it was made known that she had written to both the Prince and Princess recommending they seek a divorce.

The Prince's camp immediately let it be known that he accepted this recommendation, but the Princess did not respond, fulfilling her vow on *Panorama* that she would not 'go easily'.

There followed more than two months of behind-the-scenes haggling, in which the Princess's interests were represented by Anthony Julius of Lord Mishcon's firm, Mishcon de Reya. The Princess was determined to be satisfied about access to the children, her title, living accommodation, and her financial settlement.

She rejected suggestions that she should use her family home, Althorp House, in Northamptonshire, as her base. She also refused suggestions that she might be styled Duchess of Cornwall or Her Former Royal Highness. Her team countered with demands that she should be allowed to issue royal warrants in her own right. However, Buckingham Palace was determined to avoid any possibility of the Princess establishing a rival 'court'.



The strain shows on a trip to South Korea in 1992 a month before the separation

## Defeat in battle to retain 'HRH'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

**LAWYERS** for the Princess of Wales appear to have lost their legal battle with her husband's advisers over her right to retain her full royal title.

The matter of titles has yet to be officially agreed. Buckingham Palace said last night: 'All the details on these matters, including titles, remain to be settled. This will take time.'

Mishcon de Reya, acting for the Princess, wrote to her husband's solicitors earlier this month urging them to consider the possibility of her continuing as Her Royal Highness. The Princess's statement yesterday, however, said she would be known as Diana, Princess of Wales.

Lord St John of Fawsley, the constitutional expert, said the title would be 'in accordance with normal usage'.

## TITLE

should Prince Charles marry again then his wife would become Princess of Wales. This is the agreed usage.'

He added: 'A divorce does not affect the constitutional position of Prince Charles in any way. That is true, also, of his eventually becoming Supreme Governor of the Church of England.'

The Princess, like the Prince, draws no money from the Civil List. However, her Kensington Palace home is publicly funded through annual grant-in-aid from the Department of National Heritage.

She is thought to be worth up to £20 million in her own right, inherited from her father Earl Spencer on his death in 1992. This is believed to earn her up to £1.5 million a year in interest, and is mainly tied up in stocks and shares and held in trust.

## Size of the cash payout became a battleground for the Waleses

By STEPHEN FARRELL

**THE** Princess's financial security is one of the hardest-fought areas of the divorce negotiations. As mother of the future king she is said to have demanded enough for an office, staff and secure home. Estimates of the settlement she wanted ranged from £12 million to £15 million.

The Princess, like the Prince, draws no money from the Civil List. However, her Kensington Palace home is publicly funded through annual grant-in-aid from the Department of National Heritage.

She is thought to be worth up to £20 million in her own right, inherited from her father Earl Spencer on his death in 1992. This is believed to earn her up to £1.5 million a year in interest, and is mainly tied up in stocks and shares and held in trust.

However, it is understood that the Princess has no intention of financing her lavish lifestyle from her own capital.

The Prince of Wales has a £4.5 million annual income from his Duchy of Cornwall estate. This would not be enough to finance such a settlement and he would not be allowed to sell off any of the Duchy's 25,000 acres.

From it he pays the salaries and offices of both his own and the Princess's staff, and has paid tax at the normal rates since 1993.

The size of the Princess's own future office and staff depends entirely on the role she is given. She has made it very clear that she is keen to adopt an ambassadorial role for Britain. However, that is likely to entail heavy security and personnel expenditure.

particularly since the end of the IRA ceasefire. Since her 'retirement' from public life in 1994 Diana has insisted on travelling without police protection. But the estimated cost of security in 1993, met by the Metropolitan Police Royal Protection Squad, was £3 million.

Any future office would be moved from its current suite of rooms within St James's Palace, which is shared by the Prince's staff.

The Princess currently spends about £160,000 a year. Of this, around £70,000 is on clothes — with designer dresses at £1500 a time — £15,000 on shoes, handbags and jewellery and £2,000 on hairdressing.

Her membership of the Chelsea Harbour health and fitness club costs £3,750 a year. Vanderbilt Tennis Club annual membership is £1549 and her personal fitness training is estimated to cost £4,160.

Skiing holidays with Prince William and Harry cost around £20,000, although many of her holidays in exotic resorts are funded by friends. Beauty treatments also cost an estimated £20,000 a year.

Divorce will mean the Princess re-inventing her Duchy of Cornwall American Express card and her Mastercard in the name of Wales. The bills are currently sent to the Prince, who is said to have bitterly complained at the level of expenditure on clothes.

His estate and Highgrove home is owned by the Duchy and held in trust for future Princes of Wales. After his £1 million tax and £2 million staff bills he is thought to have just £1 million a year in disposable income.

## Princess Royal to play key role

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

**THE** Princess Royal could emerge as a key figure when the Prince of Wales becomes King, although Buckingham Palace has dismissed the idea of her acting as an official consort.

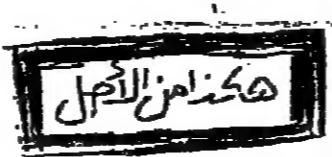
She is likely to provide strong support to her brother in a role which is both arduous and lonely. In a world without the present Queen and Queen Mother, it would seem the Princess Royal would be the natural choice to stand firm beside a King without a Queen.

She would be able to provide some of the glitter at state occasions that would otherwise have been provided by a Queen, accompanying him on state occasions at home and abroad. The Princess has been groomed for the part and has won respect and admiration for her work on behalf of charities and other good causes.

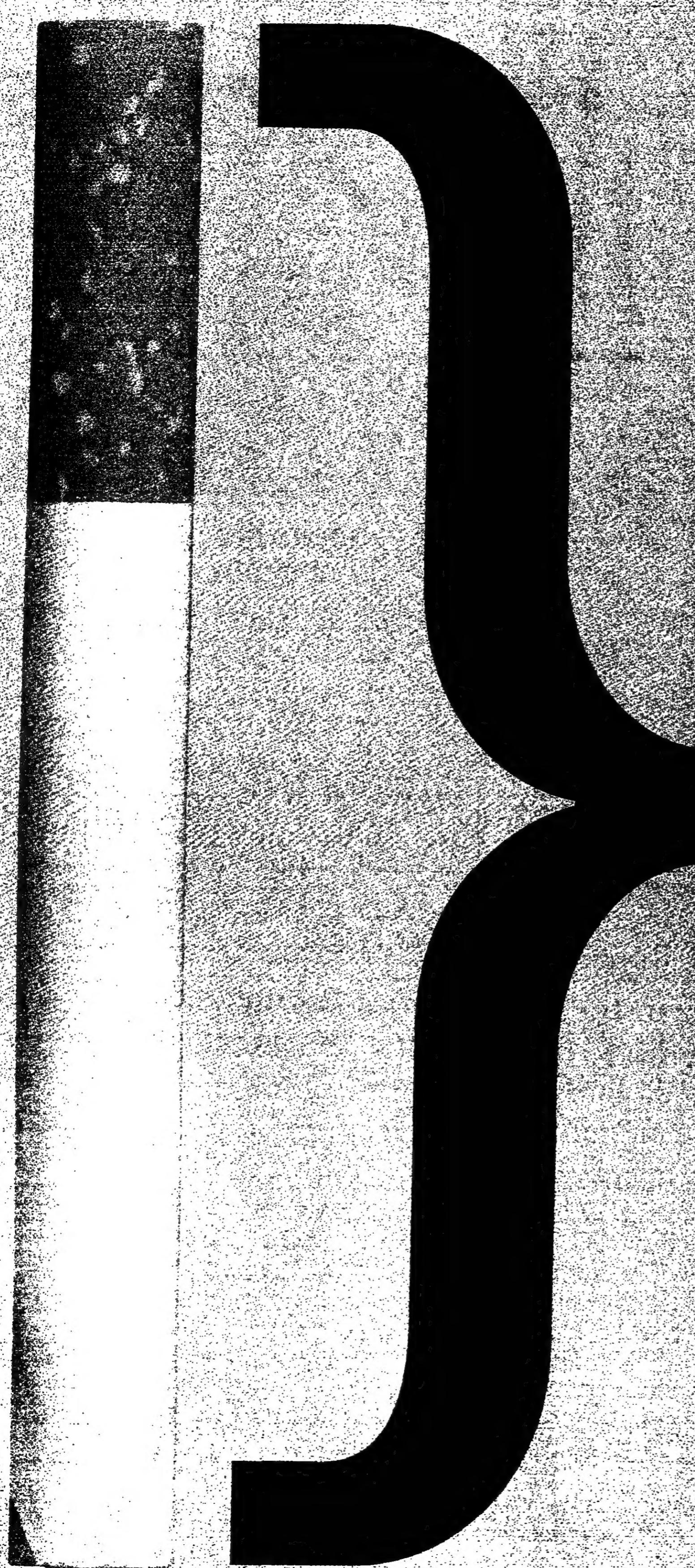
She joined the elite Order of the Garter last year, a high honour marking her out as ready to take the lead as a figurehead alongside the King, and as someone born into the Royal Family known all the intricacies of court plus the sense of duty infused into its members.

The Prince has already announced that he has no intention of marrying Camilla Parker-Bowles. Although she could in theory one day become Queen, it would take an enormous shift in public attitudes. For the foreseeable future she will remain in the background, organising the Prince's house parties and participating in his private social engagements.

The original paper



16/5/96  
38



IF YOU OWN  
ONE OF THESE

YOU'RE PAYING

THEIR

GOVERNMENT'S

HIGHEST TAX

BRANDS

£1.26

► The tax on an average pack of 20 cigarettes is £2.26. That's 78% of the price. If you think that's unfair, call free on 0800 374 313.

To join the Fair Cigarette Tax Campaign, call free on 0800 374 313, Internet address - <http://www.fairtax.co.uk>. Or fill in this coupon and send to Freepost CL 3484, Chelmsford, CM1 3YT. The Fair Cigarette Tax Campaign is funded by Philip Morris Ltd.

Title - Mr/Mrs/Ms: ..... Initials: ..... Surname: ..... Address: .....  
Postcode: ..... I declare that I am a UK resident smoker aged 18 years or over. Date of Birth: ..... Signature: ..... TTB



Rugby to set rules  
on narcotics test

British tea  
Bangkok  
Pie gets

OLIVER & CLAIRE

'It's really so unfair. He is the man who gave me the drugs. I told the truth all through my trial.'

# British teacher in Bangkok heroin case gets 25 years

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

A BRITISH woman was led weeping from a court in Bangkok yesterday to start a 25-year prison sentence for heroin trafficking. Sandra Gregory, 30, cried: "Please tell my mum I'm sorry. I want my mum." before she was taken back to Lard Yao women's prison, known as the Bangkok Hilton.

Robert Lock, the man Gregory claimed had given her the heroin and \$1,000 (£650) to take it to Tokyo, was found not guilty by the same court. Gregory called him a bastard, adding: "It's not fair. It's really so unfair. I feel really terrible for my parents. He is the man who gave me the drugs. He is the one who lied. He is the truth all through my trial."

Mr Lock, 30, visibly delighted, was told he was not free to go. He was ordered to be detained pending a decision by the public prosecutor within the next month whether to appeal against the verdict. If the appeal court reverses the verdict, Mr Lock could face the death sentence.

In Britain, his mother, Linda, said on hearing that he had been cleared: "This is just fantastic. We were expecting the worst. I am really so

successfully to break up press and television crews anxious to hear what Gregory had to say. Afterwards, both prisoners were taken away. Mr Lock to Khlong Prem men's prison, where he has been accused of possessing 0.75 grams of heroin.

Gregory, who pleaded guilty to trafficking 89 grams of heroin, received the lightest possible sentence. She and Mr Lock were arrested at Bangkok airport in February 1993 as they checked in for a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight to Tokyo. Police had been tipped off by a woman agent known as Kanchana — "Pure Gold" — employed in the British Embassy's drug liaison office. Gregory was carrying the heroin packed in condoms inside her.

Gregory told the court that she had fallen ill with dengue fever after two years spent teaching English in Bangkok and needed the money urgently for a ticket home. She said that Mr Lock, from Cambridge, had offered her \$1,000 to carry the drugs for him. Mr Lock, however, told the court that he hardly knew Gregory. They had met on a train on the way to the airport, he said.

It emerged in court that the Thai police had been asked to watch out for Mr Lock, not for Gregory, who was previously unknown to them or to drugs investigators. She was not suspected until she arrived with Mr Lock.

The Foreign Office has been criticised by campaigners for Mr Lock in Britain, led by his mother and the Labour MP for Cambridge, Anne Campbell. They said the Government should not tip off the Thais about British citizens. They claimed that, with such little evidence against him, Mr Lock would never have been charged in Britain.

The British Embassy in Bangkok said it was withholding comment about the outcome of the case pending the prosecution's decision on whether to appeal. In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said no decision had been made about intervening on Gregory's behalf.

Asked whether she was hopeful of such a move, Gregory said: "Not a hope in hell. They've told me they won't." However, her lawyer said he hoped she might be included in a royal amnesty expected later this year to mark King Bhumibol Adulyadej's fifth year on the throne.

Gregory described conditions at the "Bangkok Hilton" as terrible. "There are 2,300 of us there. We all sleep on the floor." Her colleagues on drugs charges include six South Africans, more than 20 Americans, Swedes, Danes,

Lock: cleared but still being held in prison

relieved. Now we have to wait to see what the prosecution will do. I do not feel sorry for Sandra. She tried to get my son into trouble. She got what she deserved."

Mr Lock said he wanted to thank all connected with his case. "I want to thank my mum and Prisoners Abroad in England especially." Prisoners Abroad is a charity that tries to help Britons in foreign jails.

The news for Gregory, a teacher from Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, was not all bad. A British Embassy spokesman said she would be entitled to a transfer back to jail in Britain after serving one more year, having already been incarcerated for three years in Bangkok while the trial dragged on.

There was mayhem outside the court, as police armed with sub-machineguns tried unsuccessfully to control the crowd.

## Rugby to set rules on narcotics tests

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PUPILS at Rugby School will be tested for drugs if teachers notice a slump in their performance in the classroom or on the sports field under plans being put to parents.

Next month, the 430-year-old school in Warwickshire will consider asking parents to sanction urine tests if their children are suspected of taking banned substances. It will also consider scrapping its policy of expelling pupils automatically for drug offences.

Random testing has been ruled out, but a statement said that parents would be approached if drug use was suspected "following signs of marked deterioration of performance in work and games, or the display of other drug-related symptoms".

Rugby, where boarders' fees are £12,720 a year, is one of several leading schools considering the introduction of drug testing after a review.



Sandra Gregory, with tears in her eyes, is taken away from court in Bangkok yesterday after being told of her sentence for heroin trafficking

"I went everywhere for help on TESSAs, PEPs and Pensions."

I went straight to Barclays."

### BARCLAYS TAX-FREE SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

The world of tax-free\* savings is complex enough without having to go here, there and everywhere for the right help. Which is why, before the new tax year, you should talk to Barclays.

With a range of tax-free savings and investments at hand and an enviable reputation in the market, you can rely on us to help you make the most of your money.

So why not pop into your local branch of Barclays now for more information?

It won't cost you anything but it could save you hundreds — including a little shoe leather.

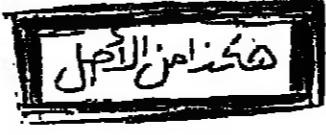
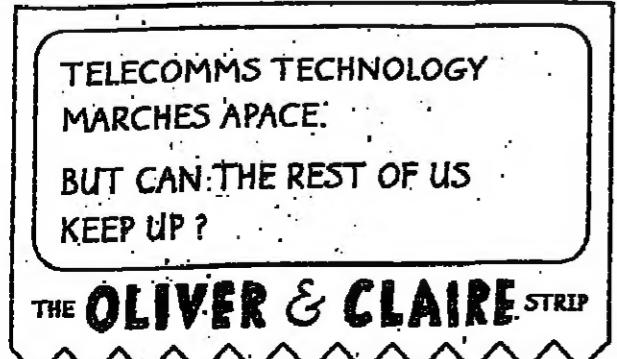
BARCLAYS

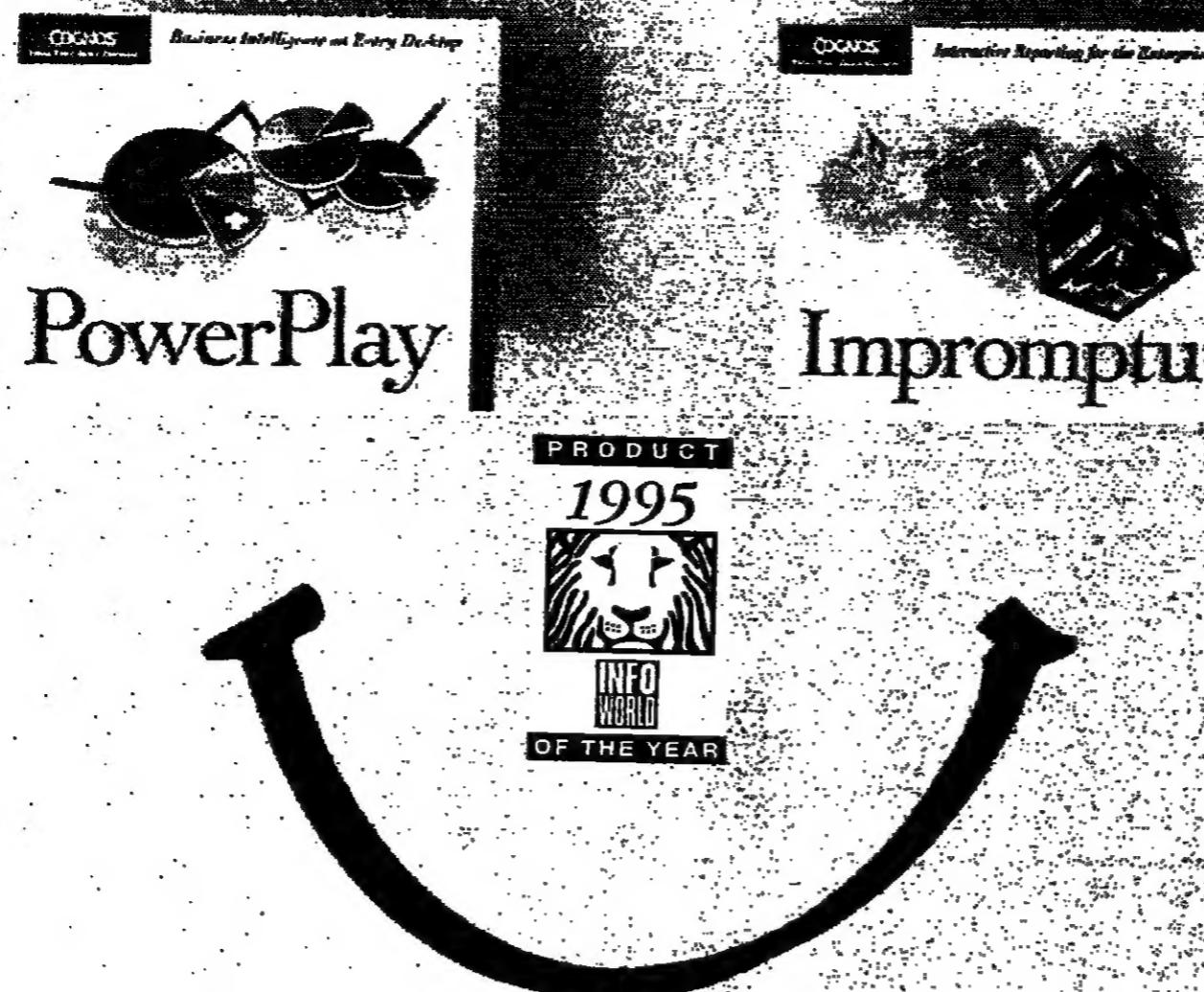
\*"Tax-free" refers to personal income tax under current legislation.

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Barclays Bank PLC represents only the Barclays Marketing Group for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business. Barclays Life Assurance Co Ltd (regulated by the Personal Investment Authority) provides Barclays Pensions. Barclays PEPs are provided by Barclays Unicam Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) and Barclays Stockbrokers Ltd (Member of SFA).

Barclays Bank PLC, Reg. No. 1026167. Registered in England. Reg. Office 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH.

Barclays Bank PLC is a member of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme (UK branches only).





## THESE PRODUCTS HAVE ACHIEVED GROWTH RATES IN EXCESS OF 400% – MAKING COGNOS THE FASTEST GROWING SUPPLIER OF TOOLS IN THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE MARKETPLACE.

As our fiscal year draws to a close, COGNOS Ltd., would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their support and continued preference for our solutions.

As a result of your loyalty, the UK operation has experienced a further 300% growth of the above products and an overall user base of 250,000 seats.

### THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES...

#### Understand Your Business Like Never Before

PowerPlay® lets you capture data from any source and give it immediate visibility. Find out what products are the best sellers, where downtime is occurring. Highlight all your successes and discover new opportunities in PowerPlay's easy-to-understand multi-dimensional formats. Excellent functionality including support for Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) which allows the inclusion of embedded images and 'hot links' to other applications.

#### Interact With Your Data

Impromptu® lets you drive your own queries and build reports by interacting with live data in one integrated module. Now when you have a question about data or a report, you don't have to make a phone call to retrieve the answer. The data contains the answers and Impromptu guides you in extracting it. With this product, users can obtain the full benefit of client/server computing, taking 'snapshots' of data which can be processed locally on a PC freeing up the database server.

If you wish to receive information on the above award winning tools, please fax this coupon to COGNOS at the number below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

See PowerPlay® and Impromptu® at one of the following workshops:

Please tick which date you wish to attend.

- 27th March - London
- 26th March - Bracknell
- 3rd April - Bracknell
- 17th April - Newcastle
- 18th April - Bracknell
- 24th April - Ascot
- Manchester
- Leeds
- 16th May - Manchester
- 29th May - Castle Dodington
- 30th May - Manchester

- 5th June - Bracknell
- 11th June - Bracknell
- 18th June - Manchester
- 25th June - Bracknell
- 3rd July - Bath
- 24th July - Glasgow

## COGNOS®

WORKING IN HARMONY WITH OUR CUSTOMERS FOR OVER 25 YEARS

COGNOS Ltd, Westerly Point, Market Street, BRACKNELL, RG12 1AB, UK  
Phone: +44 1344 486668 Fax: +44 1344 260022

© 1994 Cognos International. Cognos, PowerPlay and Impromptu are trademarks or registered trademarks of Cognos Incorporated.

chance of  
therapy  
on your

Red Cross birth  
appeal raises £52

Need instant  
insurance  
call SWIFT  
4050245678

Cash shortage forces hospitals to disregard clinical need when rationing latest drug

## Chance of cancer therapy depends on your postcode

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A SHORTAGE of money is forcing National Health Service cancer centres to provide a two-tier service to patients, with some being offered the latest treatments while others are not.

The decisions on who to treat, which affect patients' chances of survival, are being made on financial, not clinical, grounds. People treated at oncology centres in London and Southampton are being told that their right to receive the latest drugs depends on their postcode and not on clinical need.

The cancer centre at the Royal South Hampshire Hospital, Southampton, which is facing a £250,000 overspend, is giving the new drug for ovarian cancer, Taxol, only to women whose health authorities have agreed to pay the

£9,000 cost. Taxol, derived from the bark of the Pacific yew, has been shown to extend survival in women with advanced ovarian cancer by 50 per cent, from two years to three, when added to existing treatments. The *New England Journal of Medicine* said in January it should be considered "standard" therapy for women with advanced ovarian cancer.

Dr Roger Ryall, clinical director of the Southampton centre, said: "It means a patient living on one side of the road may be getting the treatment while one living on the other side in a different health authority is not."

Cancer centres in London have experienced similar difficulties. Professor Michael Richards, clinical director of the centre at St Thomas's



Professor Michael Richards examines a mammogram. He hopes a survey will support the case for more funds

Hospital and chairman of a group representing the 12 largest centres in the UK, said he would be meeting the Government's Chief Medical Officer. "It is quite unacceptable that a patient living in district A gets the treatment while a patient living in district B does not, even though they are being treated by the same consultant at the same centre."

An unpublished survey of the 12 largest cancer centres, which serve half the population, has revealed wide variations in levels of treatment and funding. Centres in Leeds, Newcastle, Birmingham and Cardiff are among those which are understood to have overspent their budgets. Earlier this month the Bristol Oncology Centre disclosed it was turning away terminally ill patients and concentrating

on potentially curable cases because it was £500,000 overspent. In Southampton, the cancer centre has closed beds, cut staff and limited bone marrow transplants.

Professor Richards said:

"The centres at the bottom of the scale will have a very good

case for more money. It is vital that the Government knows this so that it doesn't think a few maverick oncologists are to blame for the problems when they are affecting the whole country."

"In the last five years consultants in local hospitals have

realised there are benefits from chemotherapy for com-

mon cancers such as those of the stomach and bowel, and are sending patients for treatment who would never have come to cancer centres before," he said.

There are 5,000 cases of ovarian cancer in the UK each year and 4,000 deaths.

SATURDAY  
IN THE TIMES



BURMA'S BRAVE HEART  
Joanna Pitman meets Aung San Suu Kyi, in the Magazine

FREE  
BLOCKBUSTER

Start collecting tokens to take out a free video from the Blockbuster film collection

THE SEVEN-SECTION  
TIMES IS 40p  
ON SATURDAY

## Cut night calls to GPs, says Dorrell

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS were urged yesterday to think twice before calling out their doctor at night to ensure that people in serious need get prompt and effective care. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said patients should recognise that an unnecessary call at night inhibited a doctor's capacity to provide high-quality service to others the next day.

Advertising a £2.75 million advertising campaign aimed at curbing the rapid rise in night calls to GPs, which have doubled in the past three years, Mr Dorrell said: "General practice is the jewel in the NHS's crown but that can only be sustained on the basis of a healthy partnership between doctors and patients."

The campaign was agreed, with the British Medical Association.



Dorrell: unveiled doctors' campaign

Body and Mind, page 16

## Red Cross birthday appeal raises £82m

By JOHN YOUNG

THE British Red Cross 125th Birthday appeal, which officially ends today, succeeded in boosting contributions to nearly £82 million last year, a 14 per cent increase on 1994.

The appeal was sponsored by *The Times* as its 1994 Christmas charity campaign. John Gray, Red Cross director of public affairs, thanked readers yesterday. "Much of what we achieved we owe to *The Times*."

The Princess of Wales, patron of the appeal, will

attend an official celebration at Lancaster House in London today, and will launch a fundraising initiative, known as Help4U, in which products sold in shops will carry advertisements for other non-competing brands, the income from which will go to meeting humanitarian needs.

The birthday appeal attracted 30,000 new donors, and included one individual donation of £500,000.

Call to ban mines, page 13



THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NEW ALFA ROMEO 146ti. AFTER ALL IT'S POWERED BY OUR SPARKLING 2 LITRE, 16V, 150BHP,

TWIN SPARK ENGINE. ANY RAISED EYEBROWS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED SIMPLY AS GLANCES OF APPROVAL. THERE'S NO DEBATE OVER THE COMFORT OF ITS SPORTS SEATS OR THE COCOONING SOUND OF THE CD SYSTEM WHICH COMES AS STANDARD. NOR OVER ITS STATE OF THE ART SAFETY FEATURES.

SIDE IMPACT BARS, ABS, DRIVER'S AIRBAG, ADVANCED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM. A PRICE OF £15,904.86 ON THE ROAD MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE,

BUT IT'S UNQUESTIONABLY TRUE. THE ONLY QUESTION OVER THE ALFA 146ti IS WHETHER IT'S A FAMILY CAR OR A SPORTS CAR. ON THE OTHER HAND

WHEN A CAR LOOKS THIS GOOD, DOES IT MATTER? RING 0800 718 000 TO TAKE ONE FOR A TEST DRIVE, THEN YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

ALFA 146ti.  
SPORTS CAR OR FAMILY CAR?  
DEFINITELY.

3-YEAR  
ALFACARE  
SELENIA

CAR FEATURING THE 146ti. RANGE STARTS AT £12,995.

Mackay faces defeat as 80 women lead cross-party rebellion in Lords

## Peers pledge to give divorcees access to husband's pension

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is facing an embarrassing defeat in the House of Lords today over its refusal to accept the idea of a divorced woman being allowed to share her former husband's pension.

A formidable cross-party alliance of peers has promised to back an amendment during the report stage of the Family Law Bill this afternoon which will give women access to their former husband's pension at the time of divorce. At present, divorcing couples can split their pension only at the time of retirement. Labour and Tory rebels believe their proposal would prevent divorced couples' financial affairs being unnecessarily entangled for up to 35 years.

They are also concerned that thousands of divorced women are forced to live in penury in their old age waiting until their husband decides to draw his pension.

The 80 women peers, many of whom are rarely involved in legislation, are leading the way. Baroness Hollis of Heigham (Labour) and Baroness Young (Conservative) have attacked Lord Mackay's Divorce Bill, which they consider to be deeply flawed.

They are joined by the

Baroness O'Cathain (Conservative) and Baroness Seear (Liberal Democrat). Many male peers, including the former Law Lord, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a former matrimonial judge, and Lord Marsh, a former Labour minister, have also said the move is imperative "on the grounds of compassion and logic".

Lord Mackay has leant over backwards to stop the revolt by announcing a consultation paper on pensions although no changes will be included in the current Bill. He also tabled a further amendment earlier this week to encourage couples to stay together by insisting that during the mediation period of a divorce the mediator must always emphasise the concept of reconciliation.

Baroness Hollis yesterday dismissed the paper as "an underhand delaying tactic". She refused to accept the Government's arguments that the process would cost too much, be too complicated and could be open to abuse.

In a written answer yesterday, the Government said pension splitting would eventually cost the taxpayer £180 million a year. Baroness Hollis said the figures had taken into account all those who

were married as well as those divorcing; the figure would be neutral.

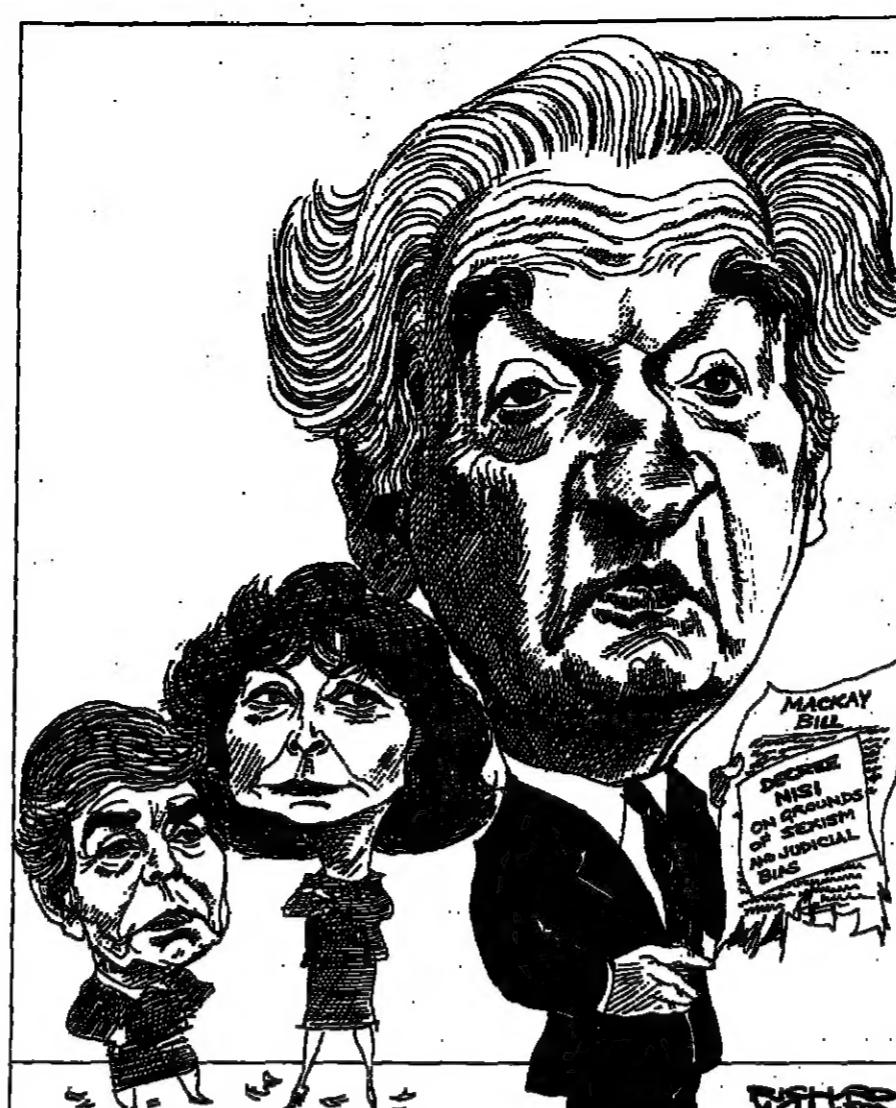
Pension splitting is supported by the Pensions Management Institute, the Confederation of British Industry, the Law Society, Age Concern and the National Association of Pension Funds. "The pensions industry has seen this coming for a long time. They have already worked out the technicalities. This amendment would focus their minds," she said.

Baroness Young has added two contentious amendments to be debated tonight. She wants a minimum wait of 18 months instead of a year for petitioners with children. She also believes that the concept of fault should be kept in divorce proceedings, rather than the Chancellor's proposal of a no-fault divorce available to all after a year.

She is supported by an array of bishops and Catholic peers as well as many family-minded rightwing Tory peers.

The Lord Chancellor has laid down amendments to try to placate the rebels, saying the welfare and wishes of children should always be respected.

But Baroness Young is convinced that divorce is far too



Divorce proceedings: Baroness Young, left, Baroness Hollis and Lord Mackay

## Ministers thwarted by 'mafia'

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON

THE Deputy Prime Minister admitted last night that the power of all ministers could be frustrated by the existence of a "Whitehall mafia".

In a revealing insight into the inner workings of Government, Michael Heseltine said ministers often had merely "influence" rather than real power. "The constraints of the

system are much more pervasive than people understand. A minister can give orders but there are endless ways he will be frustrated. He will be told 'that isn't policy' or that he doesn't have authority." There were "other ways these matters can be arranged", Mr Heseltine told the Commons Public Service Committee.

In a story that sounded as if it has come straight from a

Yes, Minister script, Mr Heseltine said that in his early days in office he had decided on a certain course of action against his officials. "Then there came a letter out of the blue from the Treasury" sternly warning that "collective discussion" was needed before any action. How had the Treasury known? "The mafia," Mr Heseltine said darkly.

## Labour look again at Lloyd candidature

BY JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR'S ruling body is to launch a formal investigation into John Lloyd, the parliamentary candidate for Exeter who has admitted involvement in terrorist bombings in South Africa in the 1980s.

The move, approved by the National Executive Committee yesterday, coincides with further setbacks for Labour after bitter selection battles in two other constituencies, Glasgow Govan and Swindon North. The NEC turned down

the men chosen in both constituencies after inquiries exposed serious flaws and breaches of procedure in the selection process.

The selection process in Glasgow Govan is to be rerun after allegations of vote rigging, while the NEC has opted to set up a special selection panel to choose a candidate in Swindon North, where there have also been allegations of ballot irregularities.

Mr Lloyd was a member of the African Resistance Movement, a small group of

intellectuals opposed to apartheid and responsible for a dozen bombings against targets such as electricity pylons and radio masts.

Opponents of Mr Lloyd, who allege he betrayed a fellow conspirator who was later executed, want to see him deselected. The NEC agreed yesterday to carry out a full investigation before any decision was taken on whether his candidature should be re-endorsed. The panel will include John Prescott, Clare Short, and Tom Burlison, the party's treasurer.



Lloyd: investigated



it's aluminium  
it's recyclable  
it's for men it's for women  
it's for me it's for you  
it's for everyone  
on the planet  
and it smells  
good.

paco  
paco rabanne

legal aid  
for show  
who is su

Rule change  
the wealthy

Is so  
chippi  
at the  
You're  
for a

Telephone 0181 8500

Blair at odds with unions, 'concessions'

THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996

HOME NEWS 9

Outcry forces rethink on criminal who wants compensation for 'pain and distress' caused by injuries

## Legal aid stopped for shot robber who is suing police

By RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

AN ARMED robber who is suing the police for shooting him during a raid on a Post Office van had his legal aid suspended yesterday. Steven Charalambous was shot three times by police marksmen in February 1993 after he ignored their demand to drop his gun, which turned out to be an initiation.

Embarrassed officials at the Legal Aid Board announced the suspension after claiming that the board had not been given the full facts of the case when the initial limited fund-

ing was granted. About £1,200 was given for a ballistics report to be obtained after a barrister advised that it was an appropriate case for funding from the £1.5 billion annual budget for legal aid.

But solicitors acting for Charalambous have been told to explain why they did not disclose the full facts of the case when they applied for funding to sue the Metropolitan Police. Steve Orchard, chief executive of the board, said: "We have given the solicitors acting for this man

14 days to provide us with an explanation as to why certain matters known to them were not disclosed to us when they made their application."

Charalambous, 35, of Finchley Park, north London, was shot during Operation Odense, involving more than 20 Flying Squad officers. The three-man gang intended to ambush the Post Office van, which was carrying about £250,000.

During his trial at the Old Bailey, Charalambous admitted conspiracy to rob and firearms offences. He was jailed for five years and is now in Holesley Bay prison in Suffolk.

He has issued a High Court

writ claiming compensation for pain and distress suffered when Flying Squad marksmen opened fire as he held the replica handgun to the head of a postal worker in Crouch End, north London. His writ alleges that the shooting was "responsible to the person" and claims damages for "excruciating pain, fear, shock and lasting emotional distress".

He is demanding £335 for

clothes damaged in the shooting, plus travelling expenses for relatives and his girlfriend who visited him in hospital.

He is also claiming almost £1,000 for food they bought to help him to put on weight.

Police officers and MPs protested, yesterday at the decision by the London area office of the Legal Aid Board to grant Charalambous a limited certificate for a sum believed to approach £2,500. Detective Sergeant Gordon Livingstone, one of the officers named in the writ, said: "It is ludicrous, and I am not speaking just as a police officer but as a member of the public and a taxpayer."

Officials at the board held a series of meetings about the case yesterday before issuing a statement suspending the grant. It had believed that he

was injured when unarmed, that the police had known he was unarmed and that they had been acting on a tip-off. The board also had no knowledge that there had been a full inquiry into the shooting by the Police Complaints Authority, which cleared Detective Sergeant Livingstone and his officers.

Mr Orchard said that no money had been paid to Joseph Hill and Co, the solicitors acting for Charalambous. Naheed Faiz-afzal, Charalambous' solicitor, was not available for comment yesterday. She was granted a certificate to practise as a solicitor in November last year, according to a formula on the same basis as other means-tested benefits.

The decision on merit was

reached after the board took opinion from Emily Driver, a barrister, on whether the case had a reasonable prospect of success. She is said to have advised that it was an appropriate case for legal aid to commission a ballistics expert's report.

Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said that the decision to grant Charalambous legal aid in the first place was an example of "a world gone mad". He said: "We have got a system in this country where the goodies are the baddies and the baddies are the goodies. I hope the Metropolitan Police vigorously defends this. All this is doing is putting money into lawyers' pockets."



Steven Charalambous, right, lying wounded after being shot by police in 1993. Beside him are his toy policeman's helmet and imitation gun

Damage to clothing:	
White shirt	£15
Black trousers	£120
Grey/orange jacket	£50
Black boots	£50
Glasses	£100
Watch	£200-£100
Travelling expenses incurred by family visiting him in hospital: Five relatives, two trips daily over seven days, £10 each way £140	
Taxi fares of girlfriend Bernadette Boos	£200
Taxi fares of mother	£50
Relatives' loss of earnings:	
Andrew (brother)	£100
Costis (brother)	£100
Father (three days at £50 a day)	£150
Additional expenditure:	
Injuries and loss of weight while on remand for six months	£400
Money sent by relatives to allow him to buy food	£224
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£2,579</b>

## Rule changes to weed out the wealthy 'unworkable'

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS signalled renewed clashes with the Lord Chancellor yesterday over new rules designed to crack down on the abuse of legal aid.

The Law Society and other legal groups said they supported the aim of the rules — to stop the "apparently rich" obtaining legal aid — but said that hundreds of people who genuinely deserved it could find themselves penalised because they had put their savings into a home.

Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, said the rules were "nonsensical". Russell Wallman, a society official, described them as absurd and likely to cause injustice.

The changes, introduced by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will ensure that the value of a person's home, above a cut-off level of £100,000, is taken into account when they are assessed for legal aid.

Officials assessing the



Mears described the changes as nonsensical

means of people seeking legal aid will also be able to include the assets of friends, relatives and children where "these appear to be providing a significant" material advantage to the applicant.

In addition, the Legal Aid Board is to set up an investigations unit that will look into legal aid applications where the person enjoys a wealthy lifestyle, has substantial busi-

ness assets or access to assets or income apparently owned by others.

The new rules, which will

come into effect on June 1, also

limit to £100,000 the amount

of mortgage that can be offset

against the equity value of a

house and against income.

The Law Society, which has

been at the forefront of the

campaign to close loopholes

allowing the "apparently

wealthy" to exploit the £1.6

billion legal aid scheme, said

some of the new rules, which

had been laid before Parliament, were "unworkable".

Mr Wallman, the Law Society official in charge of legal aid, said: "People with a home of, say, £250,000 which is fully mortgaged will find themselves assessed as having £150,000 equity. So either they will be denied legal aid on the basis that they can afford lawyers, or they will be granted legal aid but asked to pay a contribution to their legal costs from capital they don't have."

Is someone  
chipping away  
at the deposit  
you're saving  
for a home

At the moment, you probably keep your savings in a Bank or Building Society account. It makes sense. Especially if you need money for everyday expenses, like bills or small purchases.

However, if you're saving for a house or flat over several years you might well be losing out. You see, the chances are that whenever you earn interest the taxman will take 20% or more. This can make a large hole in your savings.

With our new Savings Plan, though, you don't have to pay him a penny. If you're able to put aside a small amount each month you can now save in the same way as some of the wealthiest people in Britain.

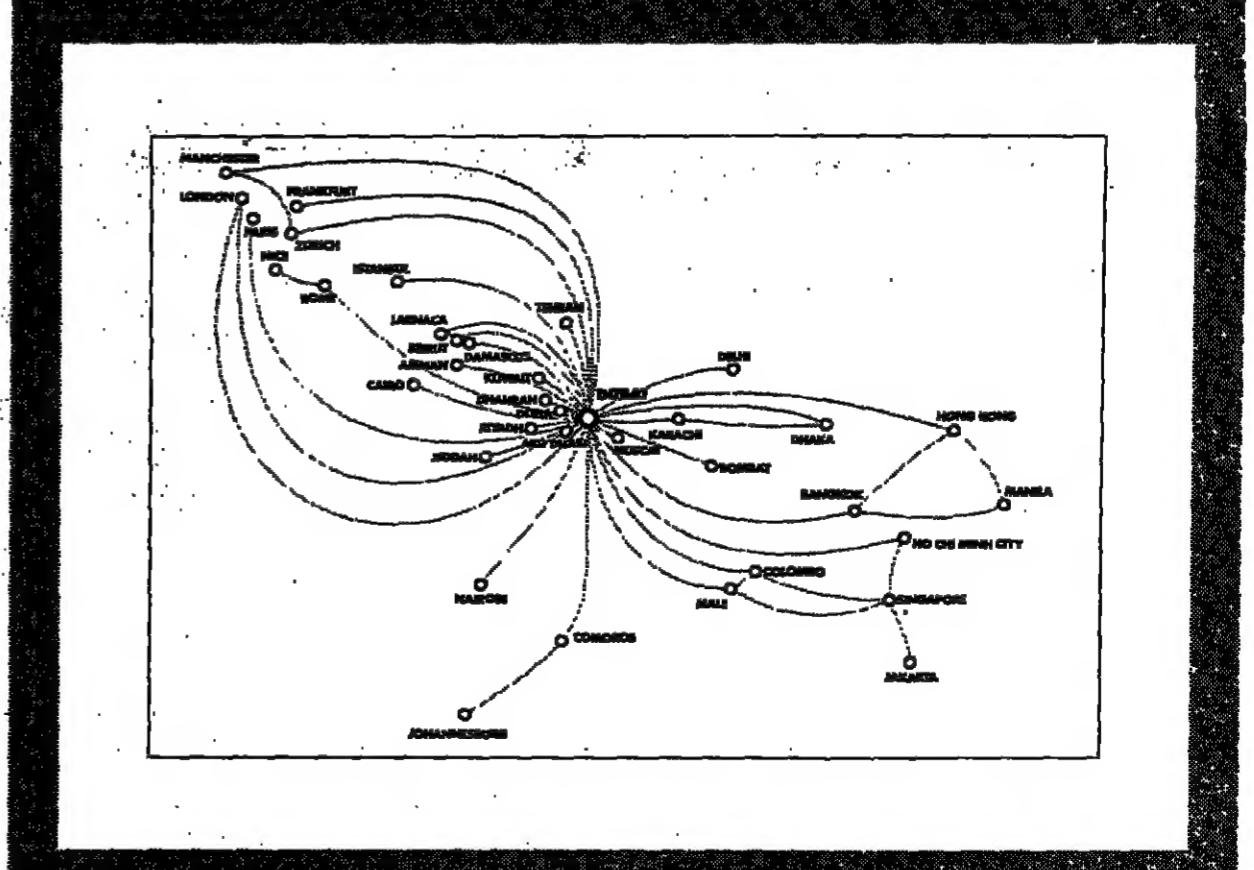
For an information pack about stopping the removal of your savings, please give us a call.

Telephone: 0500 600 560  
Call weekdays 8am - 8pm and Saturdays 9am - 2pm

**EAGLE STAR**  
Direct

As the plan is a PEP it is not included in the new income tax structure and is not guaranteed. Eagle Star Direct is an insurance only to Eagle Star Marketing Group, members of which are registered with the Personal Insurance Authority and IMRC for introducing claims for life assurance, pension and unit trust business. Tax law is subject to changes which cannot be foreseen.

**Emirates.**  
**The perfect connection.**



*Best Long-Haul carrier '95*

Good news: Emirates now serves Dubai 21 times a week from London and 5 times a week from Manchester, with good connections to over 20 cities in the Middle East and beyond.

Better news: you'll be choosing the airline voted Best Carrier to the Middle East and Best Long Haul Carrier '95 by Executive Travel Magazine.

**Emirates**  
THE FINEST IN THE SKY

64 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS, 38 INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS. CALL US ON 0171 888 6888 (LONDON) OR 0161 437 9007 (MANCHESTER), OR CALL YOUR TRAVEL AGENT.



# Why police force of 2,500 has only 125 on the beat

By STEWART TINDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

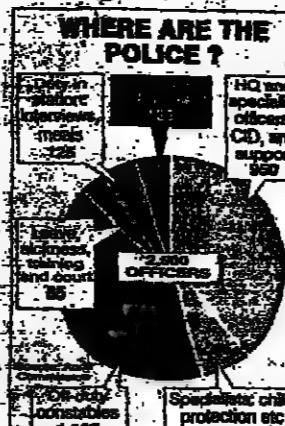
THE average police force of 2,500 officers can send only 125 of them on patrol at any one time to cover a population of 2 million, according to a report published today by the Audit Commission.

Although police allocate 60 per cent of resources and £4 billion a year to patrol work, only 5 per cent of manpower is on the beat at any one time. Officers' officers are not because of shift systems, sick leave, 24-hour cover and specialised work.

The report shows that a typical town of 180,000 people would have ten officers on patrol at any one time, covering 230 pubs, 95 schools, 5,000 houses, 770 miles of road, and 1,400 miles of pavement.

The officers who do patrol face increasing and unrealistic demands from the public. But at the same time forces do not use their scarce patrols efficiently and send them chasing to many non-urgent calls.

The commission found that 9 per cent of the public felt patrols gave them reassurance.



Another 125 officers did not properly screen emergency calls. In forces such as Hampshire 35 per cent of calls were treated as emergencies while in others it was less than 10 per cent. Thaines Valley had cut the figure from nearly 35 per cent to 12 per cent.

The report says that nearly 10 per cent of officers' time also had serious mismatches of manpower to work demands. The maximum number of officers available for patrol was at 8am, which is one of the quietest periods. Sickness levels varied from five days per officer in the West Midlands to 20 days per officer in Merseyside, a comparable force.

There are also problems over police attitudes to beat patrols. The job was often carried out by trainees and officers were put on the streets when they were demoted from other work. Only 30 per cent of officers surveyed by the commission felt their forces considered patrolling as very important work.

The report notes: "The perception that patrol work is not a specialism is to independent observers not entirely rational."

The officers were often first at an incident and constantly in contact with the public. They frequently had to make instant decisions.

Laying to rest the notion that England and Wales can be policed by a generation of avuncular Dixon of Dock Green figures patrolling beat by beat, the commission concluded that officers need to be more efficiently deployed, better briefed, and need to have a more clear idea of what they are trying to achieve.

Andrew Foster, the Controller of the Audit Commission, said: "Patrol is the cornerstone of effective policing. It reassures the public who hold it in high regard and forges links with communities. But some forces could learn from others. They could target patrols more effectively, being seen more often outside schools at home-going and pubs when they are closing."

Speaking for the Association of Chief Police Officers, Keith Povey, Chief Constable of Leicestershire, said crime had doubled since 1980, 999 calls had risen by 133 per cent and police manpower had increased by 8 per cent.



The Dixon of Dock Green image no longer fits

# Today's forecast: Met Office chief to return bonus

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Meteorological Office is to be asked to repay bonus payments he received after incorrect claims that accuracy targets had been met. The all-party Public Accounts Committee found yesterday that Professor Julian Hunt, the chief executive, had received a bonus of £4,800 "because he reported having achieved three targets which had been missed".

The report also found that, despite the investment of considerable sums of money, the accuracy of Met Office gale warnings had declined with potentially disastrous results for shipping.

Weather forecasters had defended themselves stoutly against claims of inaccuracy in a highly critical report from the National Audit Office last year but MPs who interviewed officials have rejected their defence and increased the pressure on Professor Hunt. Richard Mottram, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, which runs the Met Office, told MPs that their report would determine

whether the chief executive would be asked to repay the bonus, made in 1992-93. The committee, which scrutinises all aspects of public expenditure, expressed "concern" that the reliability of Meteorological Office forecasts had deteriorated in some areas and shown only "modest improvements" elsewhere.

Gale warnings and frost warnings had shown a significant reduction in "hit rate", although false alarm rates had improved. MPs found that the Met Office had presented "insecure and misleading" reports of its performance to Parliament for the past two years. The report said the inaccuracies were "quite unacceptable" and asked the Ministry of Defence to ensure that accuracy was improved.

The report further found that targets were insufficiently challenging, having remained unaltered even when beaten in previous years. MPs said that tougher targets were important because of pay bonuses.

Forecast, page 24

## MP settles 'drunkard' libel case

By JOANNA HALL

THE Labour MP George Howarth settled his libel action against *The Guardian* yesterday over an article which he said portrayed him as a "boorish, foul-mouthed and uncivilised drunkard".

Mr Howarth, MP for Knowle North, accepted what he claimed was "a substantial five-figure sum" over an article which said he had bumped into the writer Fritz Sprig in Soho and had uttered an explosive rather than apologising.

The MP's counsel, Michael Fugenberg, QC, told Mr Justice French: "Whoever was involved in that incident, it was not Mr Howarth". *The Guardian* accepted it was a case of mistaken identity.

■ Professor Sir Cyril Chantler, Principal of the United Medical and Dental Schools, was paid £110,000 in 1994-95, not £139,000, as stated in a report (February 10) and does not therefore head the university's principals' pay league. ■ Chen Chen, the nine-year-old pianist (report, photograph, February 29), is not a student at Birmingham Conservatoire, but is taught privately by Beryl Chempin.

## Alan Clark arrested at checkpoint

By STEPHEN PARKER

ALAN CLARK, the former Defence Minister, was arrested yesterday after allegedly driving his Range Rover through a police cordon during a bomb alert. Mr Clark, 67, a former Conservative MP for Sutton, Plymouth, was held for obstruction and taken to Bow Street police station in central London.

He is said to have argued with police officers and then driven through the cordon they set up in Piccadilly, central London, after reports of a suspect package. Mr Clark, who left the House of Commons in 1992, was later released and bailed to return to Bow Street in April pending a report to the Crown Prosecution Service.

An anonymous message at the Old Admiralty's bonds at Sabden Castle, Kent, yesterday evening said: "This is Alan Clark. The whole thing is a complete misunderstanding. The police were, as always, wonderful and I have nothing more to say."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said last night that the arrest was made shortly after 2pm. "It is alleged that the man became argumentative with officers on the cordon and allegedly drove his Range Rover through the cordon."

The suspect package later turned out to be a false alarm.



**The Open University**

## Study for a BA or BSc degree.

To broaden your interests or develop your career the Open University offers over 150 courses you can choose from to build your own BA or BSc degree programme. They cover arts, science, social science, computing, technology, modern languages, mathematics, business, management, education, health, and social welfare. If you are over 18 and resident in the European Union, you're eligible. No previous qualifications are required.

**THROUGH OU-SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING**

Our proven method of teaching allows you to study whatever you like and in your own time. Specially written texts and audio/video materials are backed by counselling and personal tutorial support and the opportunity to work with other students. If you need help, some financial support may be available.

Annuities are on a first-come first-served basis - so fill in the coupon or phone NOW.

**Send for your free brochure on BA/BSc degrees NOW.**

and to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes, MK1 1TY. Please send me a copy of the Courses, Diplomas and BA/BSc Degrees brochure.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

OU Hotline (24 hours) 01908 379199

University education and training open to all adults.

1 IT'S FEBRUARY 29TH. ISN'T THAT THE BOSS'S BIRTHDAY?

2 The WORLD of OLIVER & CLAIRE NO. 13

3 IT'S A WEIRD DAY TO HAVE A BIRTHDAY. MIND YOU, IT MATCHES HIS MENTAL AGE OF 12 AND A HALF.

4 ONLY HUMAN BEINGS COULD COME UP WITH A CALENDAR WHICH CHANGES EVERY 4 YEARS. AND WE NEVER FORGET THAT IT'S HUMAN BEINGS WHO HAVE TO DEAL WITH TECHNOLOGY.

5 WHAT DO YOU DO ON THE OTHER THREE YEARS? I HAVE AN OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY ON APRIL 1ST

**FreeCall 0500 500 400**

Mercury Communications Limited, New Mercury House, 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4HQ

<http://www.mercury.co.uk>

A MEMBER OF THE CABLE & WIRELESS GROUP

**MERCURY**  
COMMUNICATIONS

When mankind meets machine, Mercury can help.

# Brussels rebukes British official in ethics scandal

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS



Emerson: his request to retire early granted

THE European Commission yesterday rebuked Michael Emerson, its former Ambassador to Moscow, for a breach of ethics and said it would continue its investigation into allegations that he may have committed a more serious offence in his dealings with Russian businessmen.

The Commission granted a request by Mr Emerson, 55, one of the most senior British "Eurocrats", for early retirement because he had found no grounds for disciplinary proceedings, an official said. The Commission deplored the fact that his conduct had "not strictly conformed" to the ethics required of European Union civil servants, he said.

The Commission could start disciplinary proceedings later if the investigation, which is also being carried out by the Belgian police, produces new evidence. Like most national civil servants, EU staff are barred from pursuing professional or any paid interests outside their official function.

Mr Emerson, former top official for economic affairs, has been at the centre of a Brussels scandal with a cast of characters that includes, among others, Russian businessmen and a wronged American husband. It erupted

He did not know whether he would pursue his project, but "it's not the end of my life".

Mr Michel said he found the documents on his computer last month after his wife had left him for Mr Emerson.

One of the letters made available to *The Times* carries Mr Emerson's name and refers to a Moscow accountancy firm on a joint project with Ilya Baskin, a St Petersburg businessman. It mentions plans to transfer funds to offshore bank accounts and the use of gold and silver as credit.

Mr Emerson confirmed last night that the letter was his, but noted that it referred to a future project. Another letter, in Russian, sets out a project for a consultancy firm whose president would receive a \$1.6 million (\$1 million) advance and \$30,000 a month.

The Commission's inquiry so far, conducted by its fraud investigation branch, had found that no "commercial or financial transaction" had taken place while Mr Emerson was serving as Ambassador, the spokesman for Jacques Santer, the Commission President, said.

The Emerson affair has severely embarrassed the Commission as it seeks to dispel charges of mismanagement from some member states and from the European Parliament.

Mr Emerson's involvement in one of the more lurid scandals to erupt in the Commission has amazed colleagues who know him as the straight-arrow civil servant who advised Lord Jenkins when he was Commission President and played a big part in setting up the European Monetary System.

Part of a letter given to the European Commission which outlines a contract for the presidency of a consultancy firm with a salary of \$30,000 a month

## Basque region will fall to Right

FROM EDWARD OWEN  
IN BILBAO

NOWHERE in Spain will Sunday's predicted victory for the conservative Popular Party (PP) be more telling than in Andalucia, the southern home state of Felipe González, the Socialist Prime Minister, and in the Basque country.

The PP is also expected to humiliate Señor González in simultaneous regional elections in Andalucia and match the Basque Nationalist vote in the north.

The Prime Minister admitted on Tuesday night to a group of sympathetic intellectuals at Madrid's Fine Arts Circle that he would lose the vote on March 3 because he had failed to tackle government corruption. But Spaniards are also looking to the PP to reduce the highest unemployment rate in Europe, of 23 per cent, and combat terrorism — the dominant issues of the campaign.

"The economic crisis and violence are the two main issues here," said Ander Gurrutxaga, professor of sociology at the Basque University in Bilbao. "The great majority of Basques are fed up with having ETA [guerrilla] guns held at their heads. ETA has to go, before we even get close to planning how an independent Basque state would work, if at all. Increasingly, the civilised Right is voting for the PP."

A Basque government survey shows that only 39 per cent of Basques identify themselves as nationalists, and 30 per cent would consider independence. "The day that violence ends, Euskadi [the Basque nation] will be able to assume without fear the challenge of regaining the leading economic position that it has not had for so many years," an editorial in *El Correo*, Bilbao's newspaper, declared this week.



José María Aznar, expected to win Sunday's election, campaigning in Barcelona

A plan to give the old industrial port a facelift has been marred by weekly clashes between police and members of Jarrai, the separatists' youth movement. On Friday night Bilbao's restored old quarter is a no-go area in spite of its trendy new boutiques and bars, many of which are forced to pay protection money to Jarrai.

Opinion polls predict that the PP, led by José María Aznar, will defeat the Socialists for the first time in 13 years. In the Basque region, where Madrid-based parties

— especially those seen as right-wing — have fared badly, polls show the PP running neck-and-neck with the conservative Basque Nationalist Party (PNV). The Socialists lag, their copybook bloodied by using death squads to kill ETA suspects. Herri Batasuna, ETA's political wing, may poll 14 per cent of the votes.

José María Ortega, the head of the PP in the Basque region, has been winning support by accusing the PNV, which runs the regional government, of being ambivalent in tackling the guerrillas.

## Turkish leaders to take turns at top

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TWO months after a general election, Turkey looks almost certain to have a government, albeit not the one most commentators were expecting.

Mesut Yilmaz's right-wing Motherland Party has withdrawn from two weeks of negotiations with the pro-Islamic Welfare Party, which is openly critical of the secular foundations of the Turkish state, and re-entered discussions with the True Party of Tansu Ciller, the caretaker Prime Minister.

Mr Yilmaz and Mrs Ciller met yesterday and announced an agreement in principle on a

## French plot to bring invading Franglais under their spell

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

PROTECTORS of the French language have come up with a bizarre defence against "Franglais" by suggesting Anglo-American words that have crept into common usage should be given French spellings.

"Le weekend", "le leader" and "le job", should become "l'ouïquindie", "le lidieu" and "le jobe", *Le Figaro* newspaper declared in a supplement devoted to bemoaning the erosion of the French tongue.

It is extraordinary that the French, through a sort of incomprehensible paralysis, do not consider integrating borrowed terms into their own spelling," the writer Claude Duneton argued, adding that "the massive anglicisation of the vocabulary is upsetting the normal function of the language."

### WORD FOR WORD

Le parking ..... le parquingue  
Le pull-over ..... le pule-av-vers  
Le baby-boomer ..... le bêbûmêre  
Le crooner ..... le crûmêre  
Le shampoo ..... le champ-ôù  
Le football ..... le fûtbol  
La star ..... la starre  
Le sandwich ..... le sandoûiche

The paper's "Top Ten list of dangers facing French" also identified poor teaching, the power of television and the weakness of the "cultural classes" as reasons why English and American terms are spreading steadily through the language of Molière.

In English, of course, the use of French terms is already a "fait accompli", and

changing their spelling would undermine their very "râsinidetra" (raison d'être). But the latest effort to roll back the tide by gallicising the spelling of foreign terms might also be interpreted as an admission that Franglais has taken root...

"The French language is a masterpiece, yet it is a masterpiece in peril," Jean-Marie Rouart, the literary editor of *Le Figaro*, observed in an editorial thundering against "galloping anglomania".

He also admitted that "however tempting, it is impossible to outlaw all undesirable words such as 'must, drink, look, fun' and the like and firmly send them back on planes to their country of origin".

English continues to gain ground. A recent survey found that in secondary schools and universities, 94 per cent of students chose it as a second or third language, while the

study of German, Italian and Spanish declines.

Last month a law requiring radio stations to play at least 40 per cent of all pop songs in French came into effect — and was widely decided as unworkable. The EU is investigating whether it infringes rules on the free movement of goods and services within the single market.

Previous initiatives have sought to ban Franglais and other foreign words from product labels and advertising, with only limited success. The new model of Renault car, for example, is called a "Néo".

The attempt to repel imported words faces an uphill battle since Franglais appeals to many young French precisely because it sounds foreign and exotic. A Paris-café offering "La Apañadre" (Happy Hour) simply does not have the same élan, cachet or panache.



## THE TIMES

Introducing the biggest UK bridge competition for players of all ability levels



£21,000 in prizes

If you are a member of a bridge club or society or just a social player

YOU SHOULD TRY YOUR HAND...

IN SUPPORT OF

CALL  
0181-942 9506

FOR DETAILS  
OR SEND OFF THE COUPON

Send this completed coupon to:  
Britannic Building,  
Beverley Way,  
New Malden,  
Surrey KT3 4PH  
or fax to: 0181-942 9569

## Mortgage rates for Bradford & Bingley borrowers are down

Notice is given to all Bradford & Bingley Building Society variable rate borrowers that the interest rate charged will be reduced by 0.25% (apart from those mentioned below) with effect from 1st March 1996.

Mortgages Direct borrowers, borrowers who are entitled to written notice and borrowers whose mortgages are regulated under the terms of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, will be notified of when the rate reduction will apply, by individual letter.

Those variable rate borrowers completing between 26th and 29th February 1996 will benefit from the 0.25% reduction from the effective date of completion.

Under the Society's annual review scheme, borrowers will be advised of the new monthly mortgage payment on the annual mortgage statement which is issued in January.

BRADFORD & BINGLEY  
BUILDING SOCIETY

Simply the right choice.

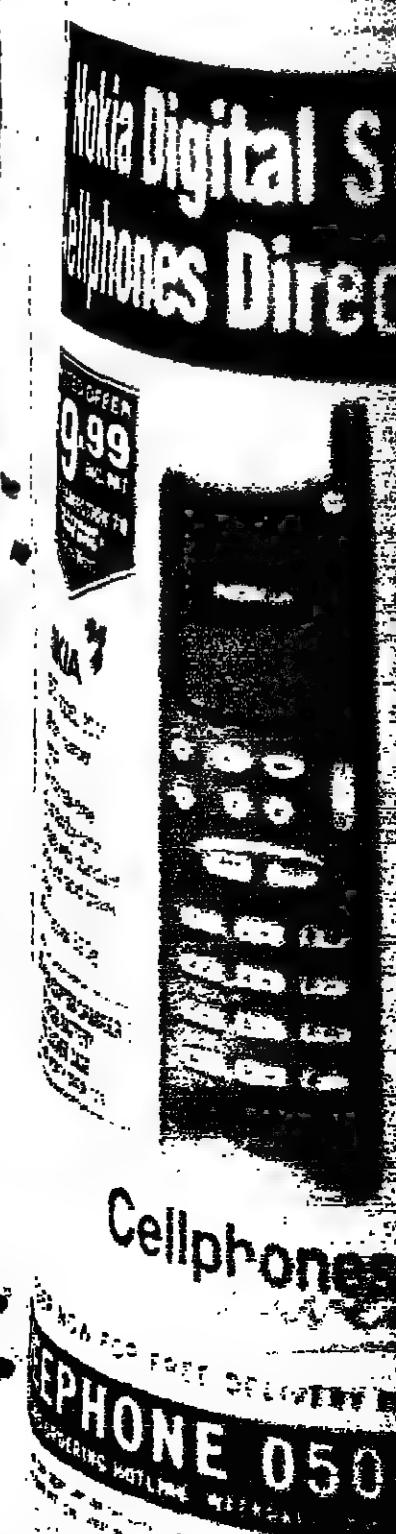
Head Office: PO Box 28, Crosslands, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 2UA.

## RIGHT PRICE COMEDY



Also available:  
SMITH & JONES  
IT AIN'T HALF HOT MUM  
RAB C. NESBITT LIVE  
YES PRIME MINISTER  
2 POINT 4 CHILDREN  
BBG VIDEO  
Available from all good video outlets

ONLY  
£5.99





Publisher's rise from ashes in Phoenix leaves Republican race for White House wide open

## Fortune smiles on Forbes in Arizona

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE personal fortune lavished on his election trail finally paid dividends yesterday for Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, who rose from the ashes in Phoenix and firmly re-established himself as third man in the race for a Republican White House.

His unexpected victory left Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, and Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator, trailing in the frontiers of Arizona and accelerated Mr Forbes to the head of the delegate table.

The publisher had spent an estimated \$4 million (£2.6 million) on television and radio advertisements in the Copper State, both to attack rivals and promote himself as a free trader and Washington outsider. Under winner-takes-all rules, he won all 39 delegates in the richest-yet prize of the primary season.

His triumph makes an already muddled race for the nomination even more so, with Mr Dole still looking weak despite simultaneous victories in North and South Dakota, Mr Buchanan winded, and Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, desperately seeking to break his duck in the primaries. It was the day there was no Republican front-runner.



US PRIMARIES

"A week ago, they wrote our obituary," Mr Forbes told supporters in Phoenix. "Tonight, they can perhaps write the obituary of conventional political punditry."

Dismissing the "hunker in the bunker" protectionism of Mr Buchanan, he declared: "We believe deeply that America has the potential for the greatest economic boom and spiritual renewal in our history. We see an America that is self-confident, dynamic... not fearful of the future."

Mr Forbes had long spoken of his "4-3-2-1" strategy of finishing progressively better in Iowa, New Hampshire, Delaware and Arizona, and this was vindicated in the result in Phoenix. But he still faces a tough hurdle among the committed Christian vote in South Carolina and has little hope of capitalising on his success before the New York contest early next month.

His television efforts in Arizona began last September and ended with two documentaries in the final days when he also spent \$30,000 on telephone canvassing.

Although Mr Buchanan finished third in Arizona, he also remained in the top three in the Dakotas – states where his anti-trade message was expected to play badly – and still carried momentum into the South.

The Republican establishment, still very concerned about Mr Buchanan's success, had hoped to see numbers dwindle, leaving a straight duel between Mr Dole and Mr Buchanan. Poor showings by

Mr Alexander, who had assumed the role of moderate Washington outsider, suggested this might have happened.

But the Forbes victory has considerably altered the primary landscape, ensuring that the publisher remains a contender in the critical weeks

ahead, divides the moderate wing of the party and leaves Mr Buchanan as a considerable force for the Southern primaries ahead.

While Mr Buchanan and Mr Dole painted the Arizona over message, the Forbes

camp said their candidate's offer of a "stunning city on a hill" had shifted to trump the darker and more pessimistic image of a "Fortress America" portrayed by Mr Buchanan.

"We feel that Steve is on a roll," Gordon Humphrey, the former senator and vice-chairman of the Forbes campaign, said. "The campaign is coming back. Bob's support is wide but it's not deep. I think he and Alexander are going to sail into heavier weather so it's going to come down ultimately to a race between Pat Buchanan and Steve Forbes."

Mr Dole, who had left Arizona early, concentrated

his efforts to win both North and South Dakota with Mr Forbes, and Mr Buchanan came in behind him in both states. Although the first victories for Mr Dole since Iowa, the two northern states represented little in terms of either delegates or momentum.

Mr Forbes had successfully appealed to those with family incomes above \$100,000, undecided voters, and those who voted for Ross Perot, the Texan billionaire, in 1992.

His steady drum-beat for a flat tax to replace the standard income tax had appealed among many in its high-technology sector. He also appealed to be a protest candidate of sorts with more than a third of independents voting for Mr Forbes.

Support for Mr Buchanan was similar to that seen in earlier primaries. He won over the less educated and those who felt strongly about abortion and immigration. But his showing was not entirely positive. More than half of the electorate in Arizona, and similar numbers in North and South Dakota, left him with no confidence in his policies.

THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES

	Arizona	N. Dakota	S. Dakota	North Dakota	South Dakota	Arizona
Forbes	54	20	13	13	13	54
Dole	30	42	48	48	48	30
Buchanan	27	15	29	29	29	27
Alexander	7	5	5	5	5	7
Keyes	0.8	3	3	3	3	0.8
Lugar	0.6	1	0	0	0	0.6
Taylor	0	0	0	0	0	0

1% vote. Source: Reuters

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

# Saddam kills his grandchildren to end family threat

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALL seven of President Saddam Hussein's grandchildren may have been butchered in an attempt to wipe out any future threat to his Baghdad regime, Iraqi opposition sources claimed yesterday.

The four children of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Fiazzan, and the three children of his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel, both of whom 'defected' to Jordan in August, are said to have been killed in 'an act of biblical vengeance'.

The Iraqi authorities earlier claimed that members of the al-Majid family shot the two defectors in order to 'wipe out the shame' they had caused the clan by defecting to Jordan, and calling for the overthrow of Saddam's regime.

US intelligence sources monitoring the Gulf region, however, reported that the killing within the al-Majid clan was far from over. Lt Commander Kenneth

Katzman, a former Central Intelligence Agency analyst who monitors developments in the Gulf for the Congressional Research Service, said that the purge appeared to be continuing among family members.

This could shake up the balance of power in Saddam's extended family, possibly leading to bloodshed in 'other layers of the regime outside the immediate family', he added.

Irqi opposition forces had been spreading rumours of mounting strife inside the country, including clashes between government forces and rebel groups. Saddam's foes could not, however, be regarded as a credible source on such matters, added Commander

Katzman.

General Hussein Kamel and his brother, both sons-in-law of Saddam Hussein, returned to Baghdad last Tuesday, expecting to be par-

doned after spending six months in Jordan. By Friday morning, however, they were divorced from their wives — both of them 'daughters of Saddam' — and murdered that afternoon.

An official working with the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella group representing a variety of opposition groups, said that the defectors were killed, immediately because Saddam feared that they had CIA hacking to overthrow his regime.

In a blood-curdling oath of

loyalty to Saddam Hussein published in Baghdad, the remaining relatives of the murdered Iraqi defectors vowed to 'cut off the heads' of any more traitors who dared to defy his rule.

The statement added: 'We swear before the symbol of Iraq and our fighter Saddam Hussein that our swords will remain brandished to cut off the heads of those who dare to

harm him.' It was the 'mission' of the remaining members of the al-Majid family 'to cut off the evil branch of the family,' the statement added.

Dr Ahmad Chalabi, the

president of the Iraqi National

Congress, insisted that the

defectors have caused irreparable damage to Saddam's

regime by revealing the 'tawdry in-fighting amongst

Saddam's inner clique,' and

by destroying Iraq's special

relationship with Jordan.

In addition, information on

Iraq's military procurement

programmes, passed on to the

United Nations by the two

defectors, showed that

Saddam still has no intention

of complying with the UN

resolutions calling for an end

to Iraq's attempts to build

weapons of mass destruction,

thereby 'infinitely delaying'

Saddam's dream of ending

UN sanctions against Iraq.

The defectors were a sign

that 'Saddam Hussein's re-

gime is on the brink of

collapse,' Dr Chalabi said.

The current round of talks

between Iraq and the UN on

the sale of \$2 billion (£1.3

billion) of oil over the next six

months to finance purchases

of food and medicine supplies

will bring little benefit to

Baghdad, he added.

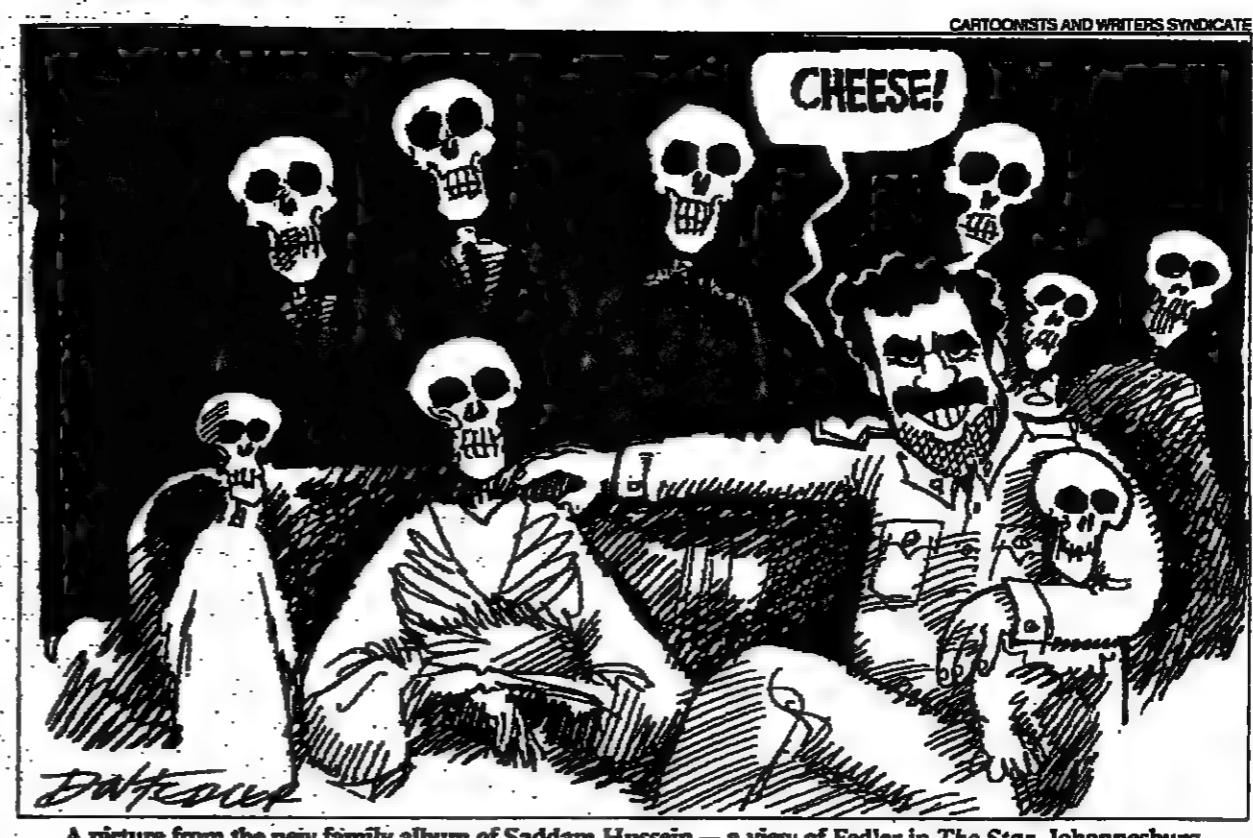
A MAN regarded as the adjutant of Carlos the Jackal went on trial in Berlin yesterday accused of killing and bombing on his behalf.

Johannes Weinrich, 48, described by police as Germany's 'senior and most successful terrorist', swaggered into the fortified courtroom looking like a self-assured businessman in a smart tweed jacket, tie and half-moon spectacles.

He is accused of smuggling explosives into West Berlin — with the passive assistance of the East German secret police — to blow up the French cultural institute in 1983. The huge blast killed one person and injured 22 others.

Herr Weinrich is fighting the accusations, knowing more terrorist-related charges will follow if the prosecution is successful.

The trial is likely to pin down some of the myths surrounding Carlos, the alias of Ilich Ramirez Sanchez. Extradited from Sudan in 1994, he is awaiting trial in France.



A picture from the new family album of Saddam Hussein — a view of Fedler in *The Star*, Johannesburg

## Angry islanders urge Rifkind to sack Governor

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

OUTRAGED ministers from Britain's tiny Caribbean possession of Turks and Caicos Islands have written to Malcolm Rifkind demanding that the Foreign Secretary sack the Governor because they say he is an arrogant autocrat.

Members of the legislative assembly are furious that Martin Bourke, the career diplomat who has been Governor of the islands for the past two years, wrote a strongly critical article in a recent issue of the magazine *Offshore Finance*, in which he suggested that crime was rising, the police were corrupt, and the island had become a haven for drug traffickers.

'We've had difficulties in the past. Allegations against the police ranged from incompetence, sloth, corruption, even discrimination against islanders. The crime rate has gone up by 40 per cent in the last three years,' wrote Mr Bourke, who is responsible for law and order. He said one policeman was under arrest allegedly for robbing his residence when he was meant to be guarding it.

The islanders, who total only 15,000, are furious at what they regard as an insensitive slight, and are also angry at another article Mr

Bourke wrote for *Business Age*. They wrote to him saying he had shown 'astonishing disrespect' and said they had watched with 'increasing dismay' while he had exercised his powers in total disregard of the feelings of the people whom he had been charged to govern.

Mr Bourke, who has held previous appointments in Brussels, Singapore and Johannesburg, had no comment yesterday, and his office referred inquiries to London. The Foreign Office confirmed that it had seen the protest, and was now seeking comment from Mr Bourke.

The islands have been a colony for more than 230 years and now are one of the last 16 remaining overseas possessions that are classified as dependent territories. The Turks and Caicos have internal self-government with six elected members.

Tourism has increased rapidly in recent years, with 79,000 people last year visiting the islands north of Haiti. However, some of the Governor's remarks appear well-founded: three ministers were jailed in 1985 for drug smuggling and last week a smuggling case fell apart because police bungled procedures.

Renewing your home insurance  
in March or April?

If you're 50 or over, just see  
how much you  
can save with  
Saga - call us  
NOW!

You will know how  
expensive home insurance  
can be - thankfully, if  
you're aged 50 or over you  
can benefit from Saga  
Home Insurance - a superior  
household insurance that's  
only available to mature,  
responsible people like  
you.

Because of this, Saga  
Home Insurance can offer you  
genuine savings over other  
policies, while giving you  
cover that fully protects  
your home and possessions.

The Saga Price Promise

If you find another  
comparable policy at a  
lower price within 2  
months of taking out Saga  
Home Insurance, we'll refund  
you the difference.

**SAGA**  
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd, FREEPOST 721  
Middlebury Square, Folkestone, CT2 1AZ

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about  
services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details  
to these companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive  
MOTOR INSURANCE

**Commercial Radio.**  
The fastest  
growing advertising  
medium.  
  
**(Third year running.)**

Commercial Radio was the fastest growing advertising medium in 1993 and 1994. And the figures

for 1995 show that 1995 will be the third year in a row. Commercial Radio has come

to stay. And it's here to stay.

For more information about advertising on Commercial Radio, contact your advertising agency.

# On the front line with the young medics

DR SEAN MOLLOY

One thing I didn't take into account was that I would be so tired. You never really get used to it. When you do a weekend on-call you can be up for 60 hours at a time, and you do feel absolutely shattered. On average, I do 87 hours per week, but the most was 130 — over Christmas week. There are times when you moan a bit about having a tough weekend, but I do think you need the hours to get enough experience to be competent.

"I don't have a problem with long hours — I've been very well covered, because I have a senior house officer, a registrar, a senior registrar and a consultant, and they've been very supportive. Without that it would have been difficult, but I've enjoyed it immensely.

"Over time you do become chronically tired. Everybody can deal with one night, but over six months it becomes so deep that you fall asleep without any indication. On one occasion I went out for a meal with a friend, who actually left me propped up against a partition in a Chinese restaurant — left me, paid the bill and went home. I've also fallen asleep in the car on the way home. One of the consultants said that he falls asleep when he is stopped at traffic lights.

"I don't think you ever get dangerously tired because your adrenaline does flow when something important happens. I still get a rush every time — I think it's something that you can actually get addicted to, and that's what you enjoy about being here. Dealing with daily problems, the most important thing is for your temper to be stable.

"The most exciting thing I've done so far was my first appendicectomy. You can assist in theatre an awful lot, but the responsibility when you are actually doing the operation yourself is fantastic. I want to be a surgeon in the end, so doing my first operation was unbelievable — I called my father afterwards, at about 3.30 in the morning, to tell him.

"I also get a great kick out of dealing with patients, and they can

Six months ago, two junior doctors told *The Times* of their hopes and ambitions as they started work at St George's Hospital, Tooting. Today, they reveal how far the reality of the NHS has lived up to their dreams



Exhilarated: Dr Sean Molloy

be very entertaining. People have done so much with their lives, and you learn a lot from them. If you have patients who are terminally ill, they have a great serenity towards the end, and you learn from that as well.

"The best thing is the job satisfaction — it couldn't be the money. I cannot imagine the satisfaction you get from medicine can be equalled by any other profession. My non-medical friends are fascinated by what I do and they hear my enthusiasm and envy it. They may be earning three times as much as me, but they don't get up in the morning looking forward to going to work, and I do.

"You expect, and accept, that you're never going to get enough free time. Work has affected my social life dramatically. What you do is swap your social life outside for a social life inside — you find that you become an awful lot closer to your workmates in the hospital, and I've had to make a special effort to keep up with friends outside. I'd also like to be able to play more sport — I used to be an international tennis player, but I haven't had a game in six months. I would hate to lose something which I have played all my life.

"I was a trained chiropractor before I went into medicine, and had my own clinic. I still do a bit of work on free weekends, though that's had to drop off a lot. I think there is an advantage in going into medicine as a mature student — most people come straight from school, and I know some people here who are qualified, but don't particularly want to go on with medicine. But they are not qualified for anything else, and feel trapped. Having already done four years of a medically-orientated course, I knew for sure that I wanted to go through with it. In the end I'd like to do spinal surgery, using my chiropractic to complement it.

"I would still make the same decisions all over again. The only thing I would say is that there should be greater rewards for doctors and nurses who work long hours. But medicine is a vocation, and I wouldn't change it."

casualty or on the wards don't frighten me any more. "Sometimes I become frustrated by the red tape when I would much rather spend the time talking to the patients and treating them. You don't realise how many forms you have to fill out.

"The role here is a one-in-five, which means every fifth day you are working through the night. You work one-in-five weekends as well, from Saturday morning to Monday evening. Our hourly pay is OK, but you get paid about half that for overtime, which is anything after 8pm, weekends, and Bank Holidays. On Christmas Day it felt particularly poor — dealing with an emergency at 2am when all you're worth is just over £3 an hour.

"St George's is very much in debt. You notice it in simple things, like not having plasters in Casualty, or the right kind of swabs. All the equipment is the cheapest possible. In some places they have things like special blood-gas sy-

ringes, whereas we have

"Sometimes I become frustrated by the red tape when I would much rather spend the time talking to the patients and treating them. You don't realise how many forms you have to fill out.

"I think the fundamentally important thing is that you're here to help the patients. A lot of people are more competitive, and perhaps see their patients academically or as a

means to get on, but I

very much like getting to know them if I can. The best thing is talking to them in Casualty and piecing together all the information to make a diagnosis and formulate a treatment. It is like a jigsaw puzzle, and it is immensely satisfying to see the patient's recovery.

"My scariest case was when I was called to see a patient in the middle of the night. He was in agony, probably in his fifties, gasping for breath. I was the only

doctor there when he arrested, I'd only just started work, and I couldn't believe it that he had done that on me. I sent out a crash call, and tried to resuscitate him with cardiac massage.

"It seemed like hours before anyone got there, and I was scared out of my wits. When the team arrived, they tried to resuscitate him, but he died. I felt guilty — I thought this is my fault. It was a real feeling of desolation. I had to tell his relatives in the morning, who were devastated. And I felt completely inadequate.

"Lack of sleep is very hard. It is difficult to remain calm, in control, and not irritable with four hours' sleep when you are getting hassled continuously. Because everyone is in the same boat, there is no one to sympathise.

"There is this attitude that you have to be quite heroic about it all. You just have to get on with it, and in the end you almost forget about it until some minor incident sets you off in floods of tears.

"I don't want medicine to completely take over my life, so I try to go out when I'm not working, at the expense of having time to myself. I've got a huge pile of ironing which I never have time to do, and I never watch television or cook for myself. I'm going out with a non-medical, and fortunately, he is very understanding.

"Even knowing what it is like, I can't think of anything else I would rather do. I might get fed up with it all in a few years, but at the moment I'm not fed down. I don't have kids or a mortgage, or anything else to occupy me apart from friends and boyfriend.

"Despite everything, medicine does live up to my dream.

Interview: ANNA ROCKALL



Sometimes bored, occasionally terrified — but Dr Ann Scott-Russell says: "I can't think of anything else I would rather do".

There is an attitude that you have to be heroic

There is this attitude that you have to be quite heroic about it all. You just have to get on with it, and in the end you almost forget about it until some minor incident sets you off in floods of tears.

"I don't want medicine to completely take over my life, so I try to go out when I'm not working, at the expense of having time to myself. I've got a huge pile of ironing which I never have time to do, and I never watch television or cook for myself. I'm going out with a non-medical, and fortunately, he is very understanding.

"Even knowing what it is like, I can't think of anything else I would rather do. I might get fed up with it all in a few years, but at the moment I'm not fed down. I don't have kids or a mortgage, or anything else to occupy me apart from friends and boyfriend.

"Despite everything, medicine does live up to my dream.

Interview: ANNA ROCKALL

THE SUNDAY TIMES

## WOMEN IN POWER

On Sunday, in a special issue of the Magazine, leading writers imagine what Britain would be like if it were run by women. Politics, money-making, advertising, fashion and sex... the conclusions are revelatory



PLUS

32 pages of women's style and beauty clothes for spring are pale pastels; the new cosmetics palette is iridescent; and the fabrics of the future have built-in computer systems



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## Relax, don't let catching the train give you cardiac strain

## Advice from the heart

LAST weekend there were reports of another elderly householder who had a fatal heart attack while confronting a burglar. Whether these deaths are the result of chance, unaccustomed violent exercise or extreme emotion is discussed by Dr M.C. Petch, consultant cardiologist at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, in this week's *British Medical Journal*.

Another cardiologist, who treated Airey Neave after he had a coronary thrombosis while still a comparatively young man and just starting his ministerial career, had no doubt. When Mr Neave had recovered he was relegated to the back benches until promoted by Margaret Thatcher. He devoted much

of his parliamentary time to the Select Committee on Science and Technology, which involved extensive travel.

Mr Neave's cardiologist, however, never to combine sudden violent exercise with emotion, and in particular to avoid hurrying — to the theatre, an appointment or for a train or flight.

The actual risk of having a coronary as the result of sudden exercise is not great

but the B.M.J. quotes statistics from a survey which shows that 14.1 per cent of the cases investigated had recently undertaken vigorous physical exercise and 18.4 per cent of the patients reported an emotional upset.

An American study has suggested that a person is six times more likely to have a coronary thrombosis after exercise, even if it was no more vigorous than jogging, swimming, pushing a lawnmower, heavy gardening or shovelling snow. The good news is that although the relative risk goes up, the actual chance of a previously healthy middle-aged man having his first heart attack when undertaking any of these strenuous activities is very small indeed.

Both German and British researchers have also found an increased rate of heart attacks after psychological stress, but it is very hard to define what constitutes stress and significant emotional upset.

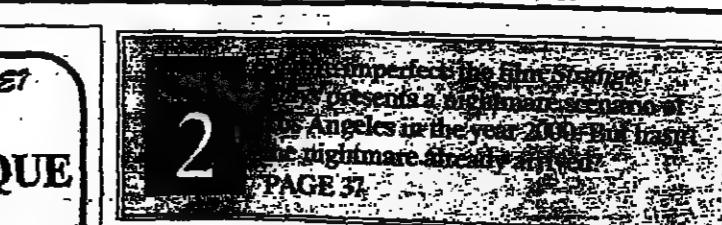
In Dr Petch's opinion, legal claims based on direct trauma to the heart should be settled, but claims based on emotional stress are unlikely to succeed.

Sex doesn't affect athletes' fitness

that athletes' levels of physical fitness were not altered by having sex during the 12 hours before they were tested on a treadmill.

Although interesting and cheering news for the cricketers, the research fails to consider other factors which are important on a playing field. There is no account of recent sex on competitive spirit and aggression, necessary qualities which together make up the will to win.

Perhaps our cricketers should continue to go to bed with nothing more exciting than a good book.



**IMPOTENCE CAN BE TREATED PAINLESSLY**  
Recent medical advances now enable our specialist team to offer, in confidence, genuinely painless methods of treating this distressing complaint.  
For details telephone: 0171-637 2018  
THE MEDICAL CENTRE, Weymouth St, London W1N 3PA

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE

### ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

improving performance  
poor posture? stress and tension?  
stiff neck? aching back or limbs?  
breathing efficiency? mobility or flexibility?  
The Alexander Technique helps improve balance and co-ordination, and addresses many health problems associated with a loss of poise.  
(Introductory lessons recommended)

NOËL KINGSLEY  
HARLEY STREET, W1  
0171-467 8340

Net SURF

Julia Llewellyn Smith reports on the philandering Maestro of Modena

# A family problem for the Pavarottis

**T**he magnificent ochre villa on the outskirts of Modena is silent. Luciano Pavarotti is in Barbados; Adua, his wife of 30 years, is in the Canary Islands.

Their absence from their home town has not gone unnoticed. Indeed, the talk is of nothing else, and the newsstands have sold out of copies of *Chi*, the gossip magazine which featured photographs of the Maestro frolicking in the Caribbean last week with Nicoletta Mantovani, his 26-year-old PA.

*La Gazzetta di Modena's* headline reads: "Luciano, Go Home ... Adua Asks her Husband to Think Again and to Finish his Affair with Nicoletta".

Pavarotti's affair with Nicoletta has been an open secret in the opera world for more than two years. It is not his first extramarital skirmish, but it is certainly the most public — an embarrassment which has upset not only his long-suffering wife, but also his parents, Fernando, 83, and Adele, 80.

Married for 61 years, they are still quite clearly in love, and are obviously saddened by the humiliation their son is causing their daughter-in-law. "Adua is a very good person, she has known Luciano since they were at school," says his

he would sing *La Donna è Mobile* every day in the courtyard and our female neighbours would throw sweets at him. When Luciano said he wanted to be a singer, I was pleased but worried for him. I warned him of the difficulties."

"I had faith," interrupts his wife. "I was sure he would make it, because when he sings he sings with such soul."

The couple speak proudly of how they have travelled the world with their son. Fernando has even sung on stage with him, at the Met in New York. But mention Nicoletta's name and their smiles disappear. She is his PA and is very nice, they say.

Adua, however, is spoken of warmly. Born in Modena, she met Pavarotti at a party when they were both teenagers, and the bond between her and his parents is decades deep. For many years she ran Stage Door Management, the singers' agency based in Modena which represents some of the finest names in opera. Today, her involvement is severed, distancing her still further from her husband's world.

Friends in the opera world say Adua is a tough and remarkable woman. Their attitude to the affair, however, is relaxed. "These things happen all the time in our profession," says a director of a leading opera company.

This is, after all, not the first time that Pavarotti has been led astray. In 1979, he took

## Life's too short to wait for a Naughtie question

**IF SOMEONE** has to be tossed overboard from Radio 4's *Today* programme to ensure a safe berth for the veteran Peter Hobday, then sorry, but surely it must be James Naughtie.

Face it, who has time for Mr Naughtie first thing in the morning? Sure, he's a darling chap. Chirpy. Sing-song. Aberdeenian burr. On the ball, well-informed, courteous. No, not courteous. Too courteous. That's the trouble.

The time-delay mechanism of his questions means that he is the

With the Save Peter Hobday Campaign gathering pace, Joe Joseph says it is time for James Naughtie to step aside

only. Radio 4 interviewer in danger of being interrupted by one of his own guests chipping in with "I'm sorry, I really must cut you short there".

What happened to the breezy question, the whimsy, and news of Mr Hobday's camellia? Mr Naughtie, an opera buff, may be an expert on *La Dame aux camélias* in *La traviata*, but

mid-life crisis which has got out of hand. Many of the Maestro's friends are unimpressed by Nicoletta; she is dull, they point out, and Adua would have continued to have turned a blind eye if the affair had only been conducted more discreetly.

A divorce, certainly, would

have a devastating effect on the singer's close-knit community. While Pavarotti has many years of singing left, his health is questionable. He has been obese since his twenties and mobility is increasingly difficult.

And, in his wife's words: "When the sunset comes, the sense of limitation and loneliness which hits successful people especially, has to be supported by old, well-rooted, tested relationships." If Pavarotti does not heed such advice, he may be making the greatest mistake of his career.

He has no plans to retire but this may be forced upon him.

Letters, page 19



Fernando and Adèle Pavarotti at their son's restaurant. Mention Nicoletta's name and their smiles disappear

Madelyn Renee, a young and glamorous secretary-cum-singer, with him on tour and in the 1980s she appeared in many recitals and concerts with him. More recently, he was linked with the Italian-American model Lucia Debrilli. The verdict is that this is a

last subclause so that the entire flock of a question is hustled into the pen with no chance of escape — a case of *One Man And His Question*. Until they invent radios with fast-forward buttons, we just don't have the time. Once Mr Naughtie has begun speaking, an interviewee could comfortably stroll out of Broadcasting House for a cappuccino

and still be back in time to catch the end of the question.

And while he's packing his bags for greater things, could we please have a little consistency in the pronunciation department? If Naughtie really must be pronounced Nochtie, why not describe Naughtie Heseltine as hooch, or John Major's predicament as frocht?

• Tomorrow, Andrew Yates says Sue MacGregor should stand down

**VOLVO OWNERS £100**

Extra Safety = Lower Insurance  
Exclusive Schemes for Volvos

Tel: 0117 929 4971 NOW!

or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on

0345 123111

**Hill House Hammond**

Over 250 Branches Nationwide

For general conditions of the competition and the Swatch Net Hunt game see Internet site: <http://www.swatch-art.com>

## Net surfers of the world, unite! Swatch invites you to its treasure hunt on the Internet.

March 1, 1996. Swatch presents its Internet site that presents Nam June Paik who presents his first Swatch Art Spe-

<http://www.swatch-art.com>

swatch+

cial which presents the first on-line interactive intercontinental treasure hunt on Internet: The Swatch Net Hunt.

### INTERVIEW

## The squalid dossiers that riled a lawyer

**T**he dossiers were always the same. Pathetic little boxes of private eyes' reports, pictures of husbands' cars parked outside mistresses' front doors, and grubby black and white photographs of clothing strewn across a double bed.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern used to work rapidly and distastefully through these epitaphs to marriages long dead. Twelve every Saturday morning, sometimes 15. At times, the pay was sufficient to feed his young family, and the view of a very junior barrister was scarcely relevant.

But the notion of divorce pinned on one person's guilt enraged him. "I used to look at those pictures on my desk, and think what a pointless, crazy system. Yet I didn't want to demolish it without putting something in its place. And in those days I never expected to be able to change the law."

Four years have passed, and today the Lord Chancellor will take his place in the House of Lords for possibly the most crucial vote in his brilliant career. His future, his reputation yet may hang on whether a dangerously large group of rebellious peers decides to sabotage his long-cherished plan for no-fault divorce; but his concern is not for

Lord Mackay

divorce reform

"I had not expected to be Lord Chancellor. Since I have been given that responsibility, it is right for me to bring this philosophy to bear on one of the most important issues in the country." Is he not, therefore, surprised that the opposition in the Lords should be so vehement?

I'd like to use the word discussion, not opposition. I admire Lady

Young greatly. But I ask myself does this fault idea contribute to preventing marriage breakdown? The answer is no.

The current law sends a really strange message: if you're guilty of adultery you can remarry quickly, whereas if you've just drifted apart, you can wait five years. Should the law reward fault?

Although circumstances have frequently proved him wrong, he is hopeful. But he knows that today's verdict rests on a knife edge.

Little, superficially, troubles the Lord Chancellor, for he is the calmest of men, although he recalls the mixed emotions of seeing his own daughter married.

"She was so young — only 21 — and although she knew exactly what she was doing, I still had this sense that I was losing her." He remembers both his sorrow and his happiness for her and contrasts those feelings, consciously or not, with his first experiences of failed marriage — with the white faces of the petitioners who faced him every Saturday morning, wishing only to be parted forever and having instead to present their sad little boxes of proof.

It has taken Lord Mackay four decades to produce a better package. He does not intend to see it fail.

MARY RIDDELL

# How Castro misjudged America

Mark Falcoff explains the public support for Clinton's sanctions

The history of America's relations with Castro's Cuba is marked by crises followed by long periods of policy stagnation. The uproar over the shooting down last weekend of two unarmed civilian planes piloted by Cuban-Americans operating from bases in Florida will repeat this pattern. Once again Castro was shown to be capable of disproportionate brutality in dealing with challenges to his power. In this case it was the prospect of a few hundred political leaflets falling to earth, urging his people to do something which almost none would be foolhardy enough to attempt — namely, to take to the streets and demand the overthrow of the regime.

The incident has, however, knocked the props from under one of the principal assumptions of Castro's regime. It had expected that after being re-elected this November, President Clinton would lift the 36-year trade embargo on Cuba, and normalise relations. Instead, on Monday Clinton announced a tightening of sanctions, and even held out the possibility of his Administration endorsing the yet stronger measures which are being considered by the Re-publican Congress.

## Castro's feud with the US is deeply personal

At the same time, many of Clinton's people are veteran critics of previous Administrations which were prepared to do business with anti-communist dictators. They see no reason to alter their standards merely because the last repressive regime in Latin America happens to fly the banners of the Left rather than of the Right. Richard Nuccio, the President's principal policy adviser on Cuba, has lately been making this point in his efforts to prick the conscience of America's allies in Europe, many of whom seem to feel that communism in Cuba is merely an expression of exotic tropical tastes.

Without doubt there is a deeply personal aspect to the feud between Castro and the United States. This grudge-match undoubtedly colours the reaction of other countries: indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that on the Cuban issue every country brings to bear not so much its views of Cuban communism as its attitudes towards the United States.

It is understandable, if not particularly commendable, that Canada or France or Iraq or Mexico might choose to use Cuba as a means to achieve some measure of independence from the defiance of the world's remaining superpower. The United States cannot be expected to embrace the same attitudes, least of all when its own political traditions, public opinion, and the facts of the case point to the continuing need for vigilance.

The author is resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.



# Boosted by a boom

Accelerating monetary growth is good news for the Tories' election hopes, but it is also inflationary

Most people have been assuming for years that the Conservatives were bound to lose the next general election. I certainly have, and I still think it probable. Yet the British economy is beginning to look rather similar to the way it did 15 months before the 1987 election. Margaret Thatcher won that one with an overall majority of 100. If it is the economy which decides elections, the Conservatives' chances must be much better than they looked a few months ago, even though they have continued to make mistakes and suffer embarrassments. Perhaps the winter of their discontent will now be made glorious summer by the sun of economic expansion. It has happened before.

The financial pages sometimes tell one more about the future of politics than the big political stories. This week the political story was Scott. Yet one point about the Scott report was hardly mentioned. It is all history. Geoffrey Greenway's famous guide to the fall in the American bond market was first formulated in 1984, 12 years ago. The Matrix Churchill prosecution was in 1992, four years ago. Sir Richard Scott spent three years on his inquiry. The debates were interesting, and the issue of open government is important, but these matters are not going to decide the next general election.

Hardly anyone outside the City will have paid attention to Tuesday's report in the *Wall Street Journal* of the fall in the American bond market. US government bonds fell amid uncertainty over the course of monetary policy and a falling dollar. The retreat continued as the sell-off that started last week. The fear that the Federal Reserve will be keeping interest rates steady for the time being has resulted in hedge funds selling.

Last week Morgan Stanley & Co told clients that "a short position is warranted in the US bond market". The 30-year bond shed more than two points last week after Mr Greenspan told a congressional committee that the economy's recent weakness would be temporary.

Alan Greenspan has just been appointed to a third term as chairman of the Fed.

This *Wall Street Journal* report has much more bearing on the likely outcome of the next general election in Britain than the whole battle over Scott, even including the Government's quasi-miraculous one-vote majority.

Interest rates in general will be somewhat higher than the market had been expecting. Good economic news thus becomes bad financial news.

The leading British monetary forecaster, Professor Tim Congdon, has already taken the same view. In the *Garrard & National Monthly Economic Review* for February, he writes that "real broad money growth appears to be reviving, after a long period of stagnation in the early 1990s. The conclusion has to be that the current sluggishness in world economic activity is only a passing phase".

In the past year, as Tim Congdon's charts show, real growth of broad money has been faster in Britain and the United States than at any time since 1989, although Germany, France and Italy are still well below their 1989 level. Japan is also inflating the money supply, rather fast.

There is no master world economist who manipulates the world credit cycle for the benefit of the Conservative Party, although presidential elections do influence the American credit cycle. Bill Clinton is working for his own re-election and cannot help also working to re-elect

year. Both in the United States and Britain, monetary growth in the past year is predicting stronger economic expansion in the rest of 1996 and into 1997. This period covers both the American and the British elections.

Presidents do not often lose elections, but Jimmy Carter did in 1980, and George Bush did in 1992. Both defeats occurred when the growth of real broad money was falling. The intervening Republican victories had coincided with periods of monetary expansion. In Britain, real broad money was flat in 1992, when John Major had his remarkable victory, but it was falling in 1974 and 1979, when Conservative recoveries were turned out. There is a close connection between the growth of real money and the "feel-good" factor, and a close connection between the feel-good factor and election victories. It does not always work that way, but it often does.

Now that real money is expanding rapidly, real incomes will also increase. Any period of prolonged real money growth causes asset values to rise as well. In Britain, the stock market and farmland are both buoyant: forecasts are now being made of a recovery in the housing market. For the middle classes, the feel-good factor is much the same thing as their personal balance sheets. By the end of 1996, most people's net assets will be looking healthier than at any time since 1989. Their assets will be rising in value; interest rates are likely to rise only moderately. Unemployment will continue to fall.

There is no master world economist who manipulates the world credit cycle for the benefit of the Conservative Party, although presidential elections do influence the American credit cycle. Bill Clinton is working for his own re-election and cannot help also working to re-elect

John Major. The British Conservatives seem to have got their cycle right this time. Happy days are here again and they are likely to last until after polling day.

Two questions arise. Will the electorate forget how much they have disliked the Government over the past four years, and vote Conservative again because they have been feeling richer in the year before the election? Will a rapidly rising money supply cause a return to inflation?

Nobody knows the answer to the first question. Sometimes, as in 1984, an election can be lost even though real money supply is rising. The money supply is not an automatic machine for re-electing governments. However, most voters are most likely to be personally better off in a year's time than they are now. That must help the Conservative recovery and threaten the Labour lead. Of course, a couple of by-elections or defections could prevent the Conservatives from reaching 1997, and the improvement has barely yet begun.

Economists also dispute the relationship between monetary growth and inflation. I think Tim Congdon is right: "it might be an old grandfather record, but the tiresome message has to be repeated, in the long run, 10 per cent broad money growth cannot be reconciled with inflation of 2.5 per cent or less." That is the lesson of history, including the Lawson boom of the late 1980s.

Between 1980 and 1987, real broad money growth in Britain rose from minus 5 to plus 15 per cent. This created an enormous increase in house prices, and it helped to win two elections. It was followed by inflation, which peaked at around 8 per cent in 1990. After that came the recession. If the money supply continues to grow at around 10 per cent, inflation will follow, and recession will follow.

I do not take a purely mechanistic view of politics, but I think the present growth of the money supply justifies these forecasts. For the next 12 months, incomes and employment will be rising in Britain. So will asset values, including houses, and probably the stock market — though that has risen already. Most people will feel richer and more confident. This is bound to boost the Conservative recovery as the election approaches.

In 1997, the bill may be presented in terms of higher inflation and higher interest rates, but by then the election will be over.

Old age and new Labour  
Chris Smith outlines his pension plans

Reading Woodrow Wyatt's article on pensions policy in Tuesday's Times, one would have thought that we were all living in the best of all possible worlds and that Peter Lilley was set to lead us into a new shining era of universal contentment. The trouble is, this bears precious little relation to reality.

Lord Wyatt conveniently forgot that the relative value of the basic state pension has declined during the Tory years, from 22 per cent of average earnings to below 15 per cent, and it is still falling. He forgot that there are nearly 750,000 pensioners, who are living on an income below the level of income support.

When it comes to the provision that most people make for a second pension on top of the basic pension, the picture is almost as gloomy. There are many good, strong occupational pension schemes — the £600 billion of pension investment that is so often mentioned derives principally from these long-standing occupational schemes — but in the past few years the number of people in occupational schemes has actually fallen, with up to a million people being tempted out into personal pensions when they might well have been better advised to stay put. The framework put in place by the Government has meant that most personal pensions carry extremely high administrative costs and charges.

Some years ago, the Tories decided to mount an aggressive campaign to persuade people to take out personal pensions, instead of occupational schemes or Serps, the state scheme. They succeeded far too well, and millions opted out into personal pension schemes. Many are now worse off than they would otherwise have been.

At the same time, the Government has cut the value of Serps benefits by half, which means that Serps pensioners will be much worse off when they reach retirement than they once expected.

To those of my colleagues who argue that all an incoming Labour government needs to do is restore Serps to its former glory, I sound a warning. For doing so would not prevent a future Mr Lilley from cutting the value of the benefits once again. Because Serps depends on the benevolence of each younger generation to meet the costs of its elders' pensions, it will always be liable to raids of this kind. I should like to put in place something more robust, and more secure for the saver.

That is why Labour is looking closely at policy on second-tier pensions. I believe we need to look at a funded mechanism, in which an individual's pension fund builds up steadily over time, growing as a result of judicious investment by pension trustees. Already, all those in work are required to put 4.8 per cent of their National Insurance contributions into a second pension scheme, whether Serps, a personal or an occupational scheme. I would not wish to increase this compulsion on employees. Through a partnership between government and the private sector, I want to develop a better way of using this existing contribution, perhaps topped up with voluntary payments.

I must, however, be possible to provide a better return than existing personal pensions. It is all very well for Woodrow Wyatt to say that some of these have shown a 10 per cent return in the past year, but this is entirely because of the growth in the investment market. The returns would have been even better if administrative costs were not in some cases as high as 25 per cent. The way to reduce these costs is to have individual savings with collective funds, so that savers have their own pension pots — about which they are regularly informed — but as parts of a strong collective investment vehicle that keeps costs to a minimum.

Some have argued — most notably my parliamentary colleague Frank Field — that a national pension corporation should be established, at arm's length from government, to carry out this investment role. I do not, however, consider a single national body of this kind as sensible. It would make it harder to drive down costs through competition; it would offer too little freedom of choice for the investor; and it might create a monster to dominate the investment market in Britain.

It would be better to have a range of funds available, with savers free to choose whether to invest or whether to continue with an occupational or private scheme. Giving savers greater choice and power over their own savings is crucial in devising a new scheme.

Other countries, such as Finland, Chile and Australia, have begun to develop second pension schemes with some of these characteristics. None of them is perfect, but we can learn from them. Partly through dogma, but mainly through incompetence, the Government has saddled us with an expensive and inappropriate framework for pensions. I want to see a Labour government putting something better in its place.

The author is Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security.

# Taste buddy

THE QUEEN has appointed a new food-taster. After losing the previous incumbent to the Ritz, she has poached the banqueting manager of Claridge's.

As Assistant to the Master of the Household (Food Division), Andrew Jarman's task will be to oversee catering arrangements for Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace and her other residences, and, in the meantime, on *HMY Britannia* as well.

He was recommended to Her Majesty by the manager of Claridge's, David Broadhead. "Really, the job equates to being food and beverage manager for the Royal Family," says Broadhead. "Andrew Jarman is very erudite, and I am sure he will fit well into the household."

The tradition of Buckingham Palace poaching from Claridge's — reportedly one of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's favourite watering holes — goes back some years. The late Sir Hugh Wonner, who was chairman of the Savoy, which owns Claridge's, used to tip the Queen the wink as soon as the right sort of chap came along. Sir Hugh was Clerk to the Royal Kitchens, so the post has usually

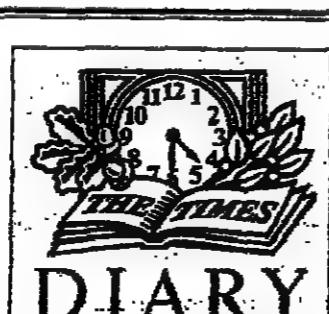
been filled by someone from within the company.

## Dream on

THE EXTRAORDINARY rumour sweeping the first-night party after Phillip Schofield's return to London in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was that

the author is resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

been filled by someone from within the company.



Lottery draw, is soon to star in a

ran off with a German count. She was banned from seeing her two sons ever again, and died in exile at a tender age. The Duke subsequently remarried — to his niece.

## In a storm

THE WORLD of port wine is flushed with excitement. Talk among tasters is that 1994 will be declared a vintage year. The last vintage was 1991, and port buffs are smacking their crusted lips.

Serena Sutcliffe, a wine expert at Sotheby's, believes the declaration will be made soon. "People who have babies born in a vintage year get very excited. Lots of cases will be laid down."

## Caw!

AT LONDON ZOO they are hoping that the female's traditional leap year prerogative to propose to the male will resolve a bizarre love triangle currently ruffling feathers in the aviary. After years of blissful cohabitation, Sam and Jo, the blue and gold macaws, have had their peace shattered by the arrival of Brian, a green-winged macaw.

Brian is 15, very experienced and rather keen on Sam. She is rather shy and naive and has been sitting between the two chaps.

says a beady-eyed biologist. "It's starting to get acrimonious so she'll have to choose."

## Bottom line

BRUCE WILLIS was upstaged on Tuesday at the first London Restaurant Awards, where he took the prize for best themed restaurant for Planet Hollywood, which he owns with other stars.

A glamorous transvestite, doubtless inspired by the antics of pop singer Jarvis Cocker at the Brit Awards, decided to hop on stage just as Willis was collecting his prize from Mariella Frostrup. The interloper tried to grab Willis's bottom, and nearly succeeded, since

his burly bouncers were paralysed by the sight of the black wig and shimmering dress. Only the intervention of the event's well-padded organiser, Bruce Burgess, saved Willis.

● The announcement that the Princess of Wales had agreed to a divorce was probably the subject of an earnest discussion between two learned gentlemen yesterday in the Cholmondeley Room of the House of Lords. The Prince of Wales was seen lunching there with Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor — who is, of course, architect of the planned divorce reforms.

P.H.S



## TIMING FOR TALKS

With hopes and foreboding, the Irish peace process resumes

Timetables dominated yesterday's relaunch of the peace process. Agreement between London and Dublin was accelerated to ensure that John Major and the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, could unveil their accord before catching their flight east for another summit. The agreement itself set a strict timetable for intensive discussions and then elections with all-party talks firmly fixed for June 10.

Mr Major and Mr Bruton might not have felt quite the same sense of urgency about the need for a new communiqué if the IRA had not resumed its bombing campaign. Apologists for the IRA argued it was provoked beyond endurance by the British Government's delays in moving to inclusive negotiations. The IRA leaders now have the date that they demanded for talks, and have seen the pace of the peace process advance dramatically. Some may feel that ground has been reasonably yielded. Others, though relieved at the extent of agreement between the two Governments, can be forgiven for a sense of foreboding.

There are certainly grounds for hope in the firm commitment from both Governments to elections before talks. Barely three weeks ago, Mr Bruton claimed elections would be petrol on the flames in Ulster. Far from being an incendiary device, elections are an affirmation that democracy is the path to progress. Negotiators need mandates and mandates need to be refreshed.

But there are causes for concern. The first is the brevity of the time allowed to establish not just the method of elections to a talks forum, but also the shape of such a forum. Then there is the wisdom of holding an all-Ireland referendum at the same time as any elections. Ten days have been set aside to resolve these intensely sensitive matters. If agreement has not been reached then London and Dublin will impose a solution.

Agreement on so much in such a short space of time is unlikely. Imposition of structures from above, without the agreement of all parties, could see another aspect of Ulster's future being decided above the heads of its people. That would not build confidence.

An all-Ireland referendum would set

another unfortunate precedent. Determining any issue, even one as apparently anodyne as the rejection of violence, on such a basis is an implicit embrace of Irish nationalism. Bracketing Ulster with Eire in such a vote, and excluding the rest of the British Isles, could appear to be a repudiation of the democratically-expressed wishes of Ulster's majority to be considered citizens of the United Kingdom.

The most profound cause for concern is the leeway apparently allowed to Sinn Féin to lure it to the table. The demand that a ceasefire be reinstated before Sinn Féin can join negotiations is welcome but no more than should be expected. The devils are in the detail. Sinn Féin will have a right to contest elections to a talks forum, and then take up its seats without making a commitment permanently to abandon violence.

A pledge to advance exclusively by peaceful means and a tangible commitment to disarming will not be entry requirements to talks, simply the first item on the agenda. If the IRA calls a ceasefire, without any proof of its permanence, then its army council members, standing on a Sinn Féin ticket, could be at the talks table in three months' time. Once there, the pressure will be to keep them there. The insistence that a gesture towards disarming had to come before all-party talks was long ago abandoned. The British Government must not weaken again.

London and Dublin have done everything that democrats could, and perhaps more than they should, to wean republicans away from violence. The patience and sincerity of the two Prime Ministers in their pursuit of peace compels admiration. If there is now no new ceasefire there can be no excuses. The Provisions will be parishes.

But, even if the IRA does call another ceasefire, the guard cannot drop. Guarantees that would have indicated a republican commitment to permanent peace have already been relaxed. In the weeks ahead the people who will demand, and deserve, reassurance are the great majority of Northern Ireland's citizens who have endured so much and who wish to see the Province's future decided by democracy.

## DIANA AND DIVORCE

Time to draw a line under the past

The Princess of Wales's agreement to her husband's request to a divorce promises to draw a welcome line under what had become a protracted and painful parting of the royal ways. The couple's years of separation without divorce were messy and sad to behold. Every friendship became a focus for the press. The Princess's constitutional position was left uncertain. Life had become particularly awkward for the two young princes.

When couple part, there is always a hope, initially at least, that reconciliation can be achieved. Such an outcome was clearly no longer a possibility for the Prince and Princess of Wales. Better that a divorce should take place, preferably in as civilised a fashion as possible, than that the two should remain in limbo any longer.

The Princess of Wales can now start a new life. But divorce from the Prince need not entail an abandonment of the ambitions that she outlined in her *Panorama* interview. As Diana, Princess of Wales, she can still perform a useful role in charitable work. If she wants to enlarge upon that role overseas, as a humanitarian ambassador, so much the better. Her popular appeal is likely to be undiminished by the divorce. But one advantage of being her own woman should be that she feels liberated from many of the constraints of royal protocol.

When the subject of a divorce first arose, there was inevitably a worry that the Princess might be forced into such an action

against her will. This now looks unlikely. More than three years have elapsed since the announcement of the couple's separation, and they had grown apart long before that. The Princess has had plenty of time to reflect upon the implications of divorce. It must be more palatable to her than the current unresolved position. And she has clearly come to terms with the idea that she will never become Queen.

Constitutionally, a divorce simplifies matters too. When the separation was first announced in the Commons, John Major told an incredulous chamber that it would make no difference: the Princess of Wales would still be Queen at her estranged husband's side. This made little sense at the time, and the longer the separation has lasted, the more extraordinary it has seemed. Doubtless the Princess would never have acted in so undignified a fashion as her husband's royal forebear; but the prospect of a repeat of Queen Caroline's behaviour, hammering at the door of Westminster Abbey as King George IV was being crowned inside, was too embarrassing to contemplate.

Now the country can rest at ease. And so can the Princess. The Queen is quite right to allow her to remain in Kensington Palace with her own staff, and not to send her into exile, either at home or abroad. She will always, after all, be the mother of the future King. In that capacity, she deserves to lead a dignified and useful life.

## GOING FOR A BYGONE

Any garage sale that is good for Jackie O is good for America

A man has not lived life to the full until he has died in the United States. No, nor woman either. For the everything-must-go garage sale of the effects of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis forms a lifetime's archive of her possessions. And such is the interest of Americans in this last chance to buy a piece of Camelot that Sotheby's has already received more than 16,000 orders for its doorstopper catalogue. Raffles will have to be held to select who wins admission to the three-day sale in April as well as the viewing days before it.

A garage sale is the opposite to a car-boot sale. In the latter the British unload knick-knacks, usually knicks without a knack, sometimes not even theirs to start with. But in a garage sale, everything goes: Friends can buy the pictures, the plates and the gowns their dear departed was wearing when she last had them to dinner. Anyone can bid for the furniture and fittings of the former First Lady's life, from the trivial to the portentous. The Lesotho Diamond is up for sale, but so is the maroon suit Jackie Kennedy wore when she gave her famous televised tour of the White House and the lighter of the cover chain-smoker. Our nearest equivalent is the farm sale, when the neighbours bid for relics from the tractor to obsolete milk churns.

Few sales, however, can be as glamorous as that of Jackie Kennedy. For in her life she cultivated her legend for style unknown in politics and their spouses, and in her death it has not left her. When it comes, the

garage sale for Hillary Clinton may be as revealing but cannot hope to be as fashionable. Psychedelic headbands and LPs from the Sixties, presentation trinkets to the minor governor's lady and uninteresting legal files cannot compete with the wardrobe, hats and even the high school French grammar of Jackie Kennedy.

They manage inheritance better in America. That outwardly mobile society is less sentimental and less sticky about the incidental furniture of life. They look forward to new frontiers rather than backward to old legacies. Ancient Egyptian celebrities took their stuff with them. Romans disliked their heirs and tried to get through their property before they left it for good. In Europe the dead man's possessions are jealously divided among the family. They are then put away in the attic or indeed the garage, until resurrected to fame or disappointment for some television programme pricing bygone objects. Clothes used to be presented by noblesse oblige to the servants and deserving poor of the parish. They then tend to be taken in black bags to charity shops.

As Alan Clark exemplified in his notorious remark about Michael Heseltine the British take a snobbish satisfaction from not having to buy their own furniture. For we are greedy magpies of things. But for clothes and the lesser stuff of life, we should suit ourselves. And like the Americans, look forward not back.

Yours truly,  
GAVIN ASHENDEN

(Synod member,  
Southern Universities,  
University of Sussex,  
The Meeting House,  
Palmer, Brighton, Sussex)

February 24

## HUMANE PRIORITIES AND WEAPON SALES

From the Director of Oxfam

Sir, The Scott report exposes the fact that in decisions on weapons sales, financial gain is given priority over international security, human rights and development.

The UK accounts for over 20 per cent of the weapons pouring into the world's poorest countries. These exports have greatly exacerbated some of the horrific conflicts of recent years. The Government has promised a consultation paper on the whole system of UK arms exports, and we urge it to adopt a more responsible attitude to the sale of weapons.

Sir Richard Scott's report shows the need for arms exports to be based on clear, objective criteria, which should be established at international level to negotiate agreements that "if we don't sell weapons, someone else will". In 1991 and 1992 the UK, as part of the EU, agreed eight criteria which should govern arms exports. These seek to prevent sales to countries with poor human rights records, regions of instability, military aggression and dictatorial regimes. They could be highly effective but they are non-binding and have been simply disregarded by many member states.

We urge the UK to ensure the strict application of the criteria by introducing a binding European code of conduct on the arms trade into the Maastricht treaty at the forthcoming intergovernmental conference. This vital opportunity to stem irresponsible sales of weapons to the developing world should not be missed.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BRYER,  
Director, Oxfam,  
PAUL EAVIS  
(Director, Saferworld),  
JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI  
(Director, CAROL),  
HARRIET LAMB  
(Acting Director,  
World Development Movement),  
IAN LINDEN  
(General Secretary, Catholic Institute  
for International Relations),  
DANIEL PLESCH  
(Director, British American  
Security Information Council),  
KUMAR RUPESINGHE  
(Secretary General, International Alert),  
MICHAEL TAYLOR  
(Director, Christian Aid),  
c/o Saferworld,  
3rd Floor, 33-34 Alfred Place, WC1.

February 27

## Al Fayed rejection

From Mr Bill Kearns

Sir, The capacity of the present Government to perpetuate injustice is remarkable. At a time when the Scott report dominates the headlines the continuing injustice to the Al Fayed's, signalled by the appropriately named Mr Justice Judge, should not be overlooked (report, February 27).

The Al Fayed generosity to good causes, the restoration of Harrods and their contribution to the economic well-being of this country alongside their long-time residence should more than qualify them for citizenship.

There is still time for the Home Secretary to be mindful of the implied strictures of Mr Justice Judge and do the sensible and decent thing and reverse his decision.

Yours ever,  
BILL KEARNS,  
11 Court Royal Mews,  
Northlands Road,  
Southampton, Hampshire.

February 27

Episcopal pay

From The Reverend  
Gavin R. P. Ashenden

Sir, The Reverend Anthony Care (letter, February 24) invokes shame on members of General Synod and the Bishop of Chester for not abolishing the pay differentials for bishops.

Bishop Baughen captured the hearts and minds of synod as he described the particular practical difficulties he faced in his ministry (report, February 15). He asked only that they be taken into account in whatever levelling measures synod might take.

It might have decided to abolish the differentials, which help pay for the upkeep of large buildings used for episcopal pastoral care, but it would then have had to dedicate itself to organising a complex scale of compensating expenses. These would have had to include a long and esoteric list of special factors, varying from wives' earnings to numbers of children and years of pastoral experience.

A minor injustice might have been remedied. But then many synod members preferred to avoid the prospect of opening up endless hours of argument over a labyrinthine system of clergy expenses.

There is a sense in this synod that in the middle of the Decade of Evangelism and at a time of growing social crisis and secular despair there are other priorities which should be engaging the minds and the prayers of Christ's Church in England.

Yours truly,  
GAVIN ASHENDEN  
(Synod member,  
Southern Universities,  
University of Sussex,  
The Meeting House,  
Palmer, Brighton, Sussex)

February 24

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### PAINFUL CHOICES ON 'TODAY' VOICES

From Mr Charles Stephens

Sir, You report (February 26) a campaign by friends of Peter Hobday to keep this national morning treasure on the BBC *Today* programme. How can I become a friend of a friend of Hobday? We must do everything possible to scupper this outrageous attempt to squeeze such a witty and skillful presenter as Mr Hobday off our morning airwaves.

We may have to call for a National Hobday.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES STEPHENS,  
9 Merrick Square, SE1.  
February 26

From Dr D. W. Phillips

Sir, Your contributor Giles Coren has overstepped the mark in his interpretation of Anna Ford ("Don't let them silence the voice of *Today*", February 27). Miss Ford is unique among broadcasters in her impeccable command of English, respecting not only the correct pronunciation of individual words, but the natural rhythm of the language as well.

Her apparent aloofness on the television screen also works to her advantage. Most of her colleagues only manage to make fools of themselves when, as they far too frequently do, they abandon their proper role of newscaster and assume the mantle of the interviewer.

Yours truly,  
DAVID PHILLIPS,  
1 Post Office Cottages,  
Shorlenton, Canterbury, Kent.  
February 27

From Mr David A. Pearl

Sir, You report that Mr Roger Mosey, editor of Radio 4's *Today*, wants a younger audience and more women listeners.

Why is this? What is the optimum number of female or young listeners? Is it an absolute number or a proportion? If so, is it sufficient to deter males and older listeners from tuning in, so that a more "balanced" (but possibly smaller) audience results?

I listen to *Today* whenever I can. It is a programme of the highest quality, a great glory for the BBC. If any groups of our heterogeneous population are missing it, it is their loss. Let the presenters present. And long may the editor edit.

Yours faithfully,  
D. A. PEARL,  
4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.

February 27

From Mrs Sue Dennis

Sir, No matter that *Today* has the ear of the nation (or that it is Cabinet ministers' essential morning briefing), if Peter Hobday goes I shall be turning to Capital Radio for my early morning listening, and will be lobbying my colleagues "below stairs" in the Commons to do likewise. The update on his *Camellia* every now and again helps to put politics into perspective.

Yours sincerely,  
SUE DENNIS  
(House of Commons secretary),  
House of Commons, SW1.

February 28

### AIRLINE SERVICE IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

From Dr John Powell

Sir, I was flying back from business in Sweden to East Midlands Airport in December. The final leg of my journey was from Brussels. Arriving at the gate in good time from my previous flight I was told that the aircraft was full and I would have to join the next flight to Birmingham.

I explained that I was travelling business class and a ticket which purported to offer me flexibility must surely secure me a place on my pre-arranged flight.

I was informed that the "unreliability" of business-class passengers was the reason why the airlines overbook flights. This attitude is confirmed in the following extract from a letter I later received from British Midland: With regard to the overbooking of flights, I should advise that we do operate a limited policy in this regard. This is based upon extensive research over a substantial period of time and is due to the large number of customers who fail to show for their particular flight. Due to flexibility of the higher priced tickets, this does indeed tend to our EuroClass customers.

The original concept of business class or EuroClass tickets was to offer a no-fuss flight-change facility for customers willing to pay between two and three times the economy fare. Extra perks included more leg-room and improved in-flight service.

Nowadays the leg-room has all but disappeared, the in-flight service is fairly uniform and there appears to be no flexibility in the system because whenever possible, flights are overbooked.

The situation becomes ridiculous when a business-class ticket (in this case £865.80) can't even get you home on time.

Some airlines are, in my opinion, the business-class system and will continue to do so until they are persuaded otherwise. Perhaps a boycott would be in order.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN POWELL,  
Flat 4, 6 Western Terrace,  
The Park, Nottingham.

February 21

### BRIT AWARDS

From Mr John Timms

Sir, On what does Tim Rice (letter, February 24) base his assumption that the present Government has any responsibility for the achievements of the British music industry? His comments about the appearance of Tony Blair at the Brit Awards ceremony seem both jaundiced and partisan.

The success of the music industry is due mainly to the support of a section of the electorate which I suspect has very little interest in politics and indeed may regard the music as being a perfect release from the sad world the present Government has involved in. Perhaps this is the responsibility Tim Rice refers to.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN TIMMS,  
39 East Trinity Road,  
Edinburgh 5.  
February 24

From Mrs Jo Carruthers

Sir, I had originally considered Tim Rice's suggestion that Tony Blair should have credited this Conservative Government for the resurgence of popular music in the United Kingdom as being too puerile to warrant contradiction.

I now realise that my judgment was too hasty. After all, who else but the Conservative Party is responsible for the fact that many of my generation had nothing to do in their teens and early twenties but sit around in their bedrooms, twanging guitars and composing songs which are very communitarian in a society from which they feel economically and sociologically excluded.

</div



## OBITUARIES

## JEFFREY QUILL

Jeffrey Quill, OBE, AFC, test pilot, died on February 20 aged 83. He was born on February 1, 1913.

FOR his work on the development of the Spitfire, Jeffrey Quill stands out in aviation history. Indeed, that of Reginald Mitchell, the aircraft's brilliant designer. It was Quill who advanced the Spitfire from a promising, but untried, prototype to become (with the Hurricane) the instrument of the Royal Air Force's decisive victory in the Battle of Britain. From that point it went on to take a leading part in gaining vital air superiority over Europe.

Jeffrey Quill was the exemplar of a new breed of test pilots, skilled and meticulous men who brought a fresh dimension of analysis to their task. From his first flight in the hand-built Spitfire prototype, on March 26, 1936, to his last, in a veteran Spitfire VA, almost exactly 30 years later, he was determined to make the first flights of every variant through which the aircraft went — more than 50 of them.

Quill had come to Vickers, whose works nestled in the banked perimeter of the Brooklands motor racing circuit at Weybridge, in January 1936 at the invitation of Joseph (Mutt) Summers. The latter, a long-established Vickers test pilot, was increasingly concerned with the company's Wellesley and Wellington bombers rather than with the exciting new fighter which was being built at the Vickers' subsidiary company, Supermarine of Southampton.

Supermarine needed a specialist test pilot who had recent fighter experience. Jeffrey Quill filled the bill. He had behind him two years with one of the RAF's crack fighter squadrons, No 17. He had demonstrated low flying in Bristol Bulldogs at the Royal Air Force display at Hendon in 1933.

Next, he joined the RAF's specialist meteorological flight, for which he had to make two flights each day, climbing to 18,000 and 25,000 ft to report, at 1,000 ft intervals, on the temperature, humidity and cloud formations all the way up and down again. On landing he had to telephone the results to the Met Office in London. This was far more hazardous than it sounds in these days of comfortable pressurised cabin flying. The meteorological flight's aircraft were obsolescent Armstrong-Whitworth Siskin fighters with open cockpits and only rudimentary blind-flying instruments. Yet, for the first time ever, Quill performed this task,



with 100 per cent regularity every day except Sundays, flying through all weathers between November 1934 and December 1935. This brought him unrivalled all-weather experience — as well as many hazardous moments and forced landings. It also earned him an Air Force Cross.

The hazards continued after his arrival at Vickers. He soon found himself having to bale out of an uncontrollably spinning Wellesley bomber. But shortly afterwards he was concentrating on what was to become his life's work, the development of the Spitfire. Mutt Summers made the first flight in the prototype on March 6, 1936, but thereafter Quill cleared the aircraft, and all subsequent marks of Spitfires, for RAF service.

In the course of the next nine years in which more than 22,500 Spitfires and Seafires (the naval version) were built,

the power of their Rolls-Royce engines was steadily increased from the 1,030 bhp of the prototype to the 2,350 bhp of the Seafire Mark 47, while the maximum speed went up from the 349 mph at 16,000 ft of the Spitfire prototype to the 452 mph at 25,000 ft of the Seafire.

But the subsequent improvements in the performance of the Spitfire did not come easily. More than 20 important modifications included improved view from the cockpit, power-lowering gear, a device to prevent the engine cutting out through fuel starvation under negative "G" in combat, and most fundamentally of all, greatly improved rate of roll. And from the Mark 20 Spitfire onwards, the eight .303 machine-guns were replaced by 20mm Hispano Cannon — greatly increasing the firepower.

Quill fed in first-hand combat experience in August 1940 at the height of

the Battle of Britain, he flew as a member of No 65 Squadron, shooting down a Messerschmitt 109 and a Heinkel 111 — and narrowly escaping the same fate himself. The experience reinforced his determination to transform the Spitfire's high-speed handling qualities.

He also spent five months with the Fleet Air Arm, during which time he made 75 landings on aircraft carriers at sea. All the while the drive for air superiority over the enemy continued. On June 30, 1944, Jeffrey Quill made the first flight of the newly-designed, prototype Supermarine Spitfire, which boasted a whole new range of advanced features. Although at that late stage in the war only a relatively few Spitfires (a somewhat unfortunate name) and its naval equivalent the Seafang were built, they represented the ultimate stage in Spitfire development, with top speeds of up to 475 mph. They were, however, being overtaken by the arrival of the jets. On July 27, 1946, Quill made the first flight of the new Supermarine naval jet-fighter, the E10/44 Attacker, powered with the Rolls-Royce RB41 Nene engine.

By this time, however, the years of flying at great heights in unpressurised aircraft had begun to take their toll. When flying the prototype Attacker at close to 40,000 ft in June 1947, Quill passed out. Luckily he came to in a gentle dive at 10,000 ft. But it was the end of his career as a test pilot. He had clocked up over 5,000 flying hours on more than 90 different types of aircraft.

From 1948, with Vickers-Armstrong, he was closely involved in the development of the unfortunate TSR2 multi-role combat aircraft which, after much promise from successful initial test flights, was cancelled by the Labour Government of the 1960s. For 17 years he was sales director for the Anglo-French Jaguar aircraft.

Thereafter he took charge, in Munich, of the marketing and development of the Panavia Tornado multi-role combat aircraft. At the same time he wrote two excellent books: *A Test Pilot's Story* (1983) and *Birth of a Legend: The Spitfire* (1986). For 60 years of such resounding service to his country the OBE he received seems small formal recognition.

Jeffrey Quill was a modest and amusing man, highly regarded by his colleagues and all who knew him.

He married three times and is survived by his third wife Claire and his three daughters.

## LORD AVONSIDE

Lord Avonside, PC, QC, Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 1964-84, died on February 22 aged 81. He was born on December 11, 1914.

LORD AVONSIDE was a stern figure who put the fear of God into ill-prepared lawyers, while in private being a man of great kindness. He was highly respected for his abilities but, because of his ill-health and other circumstances, made less of a mark on the law than might have been expected.

Ian Hamilton Shearer, as he was before being made a judge, showed his outstanding gifts first at Dunfermline High School and then at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities. He was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1938. When the Second World War broke out, he joined the Royal Artillery, reaching the rank of major, and spent much of his service in Malta during the German aerial bombardment. For its valour the island was awarded the George Cross in 1942.

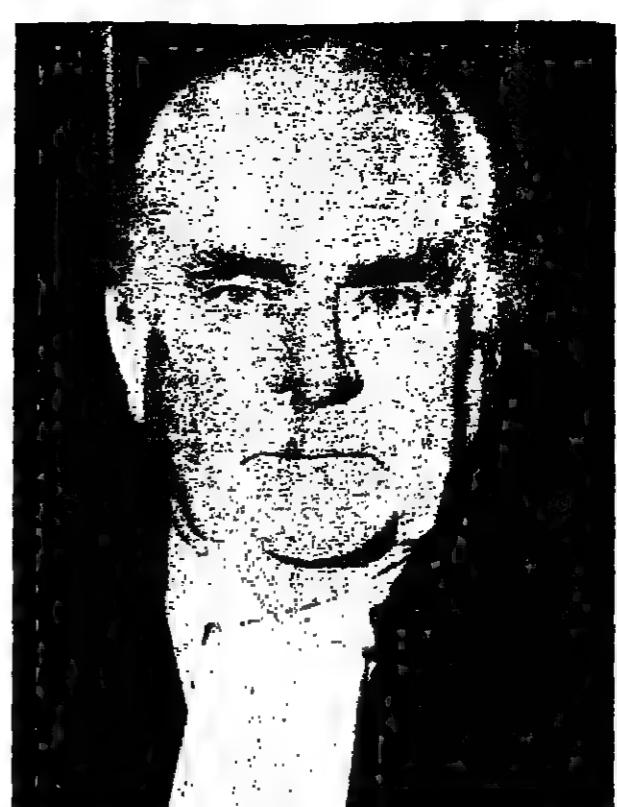
After demobilisation he had much ground to make up and did so with unusual speed. He was junior counsel for the Inland Revenue in Scotland, a sure sign of exceptional promise, and he took silk in 1952.

The more demanding civil cases, for example those involving tax and valuation, came his way, and he quickly won admiration for his thoroughness and grasp of principle.

He was chairman of the National Health Service Tribunal, Scotland, 1954-62, of the Scottish Valuation Advisory Council, 1965-68, and of the Lands Valuation Committee in 1975 until his retirement in 1984.

He appealed for the Duke of Argyll in the notorious divorce case, which ended in 1961. Evidence of Margaret Duchess of Argyll's adultery with many men took the form of compromising photographs. Shearer had to stand down from the case when he was appointed Sheriff of Renfrew and Argyll in 1960, but it later had a curious echo in the Profumo affair.

The duke's counsel were alleged to have concealed, for reasons of state, the identity of a man in one of the explicit photographs. The real reason was that he could not be identified from the visible parts of his anatomy. Lord



Denning, in his report on the Profumo affair in 1963, rejected the charge of suppression out of hand.

By now Shearer was Lord Advocate. His appointment in 1962 was regarded as non-political and arose from a shortage of suitable Scottish legal candidates at Westminster. At the Crown Office he is remembered for the "brilliance" with which he led a murder prosecution and for his insistence on precision.

These qualities, and his formidable bulk and manner made him much feared when he was elevated to the bench in 1964. In his brusque contempt for the sloppiness or the ill-prepared he aroused dislike, but he ensured the business of his courts was conducted with expedition. He expected those appearing before him to stand up to him if they had the guts and the wit to do so.

His charge to the jury at the case of Cawthorne in 1968 at the High Court in Inverness, became the basis of the law on attempted murder in Scotland when his view was upheld on appeal. A man had discharged a shotgun at a door not knowing whether anyone was behind it and the defence argued that attempted murder implied a deliberate effort to kill. Lord Avonside ruled that it could arise from a criminal

reckless act even if its consequences were uncertain.

His censorious side, however, got the better of his judgment in 1971 in a case of a man convicted of rape. Lord Avonside wrote to the Church of Scotland, the employers of one of the witnesses, suggesting he should be dismissed.

This was regarded as a serious lapse of judgment, but little credence is given to the rumour, which saw light of day in Lord Scott's *Diaries* when they were published in 1995, that this damaged his career. Lord Ennslie was nevertheless appointed Lord President in 1972.

By now Lord Avonside's health was troubling him considerably, and a lung was removed. He also twice broke his leg: these were merely some mishaps in a string of accidents. This, and the fact that he sat for many years in the outer house, meant his judgments, though cogent, were always unlikely to have lasting influence. And when he did come to the inner house, he found himself sitting beside the powerful team of Lord Ennslie and Cameron.

He was twice married and is survived by the two children of his first marriage, a daughter and a son, and by his wife Janet, whom he married in 1954.

## JOAN WOLFENDEN

Joan Wolfenden, restauranteur, writer and gardener, died on February 10 aged 75. She was born on December 5, 1920.



JOAN WOLFENDEN

opened

one

of

the

first

country

house

style

hotels

Peacock Vane

in

the

Isle

of

Wight

when

she

returned

to

Britain

after

the

war

she

was

a

complete

novice

in

the

mysteries

of

hotel

management

but

she

soon

had

the

run

of

it

and

she

had

the

run

of

it

## Take the fear out of tipping

I DOUBT if there is a business traveller who has not felt that awful pang of worry, and even belligerence, when being unctuously shown how to operate the television and the curtains in some foreign hotel room while wondering desperately what to do about a tip.

Some travellers, I am told, carefully collect loose change in the currency of their destination before they leave to use as tips. But I fear they are in the minority.

Most of us do not give it a thought until we have checked in and are then gripped with near panic when a porter appears to carry bags to the

An unscientific poll I conducted among about a dozen seasoned travellers into the whole vexed question produced no consensus.

One chap said he would not dream of leaving a hotel without adding 10 per cent to the bill. Another always left the equivalent of at least £10 in his room for the maid. A third made sure there was an ashtray filled with loose change on the bed every day — together with a list of demands ranging from the precise setting of the air conditioning to the cleaning of shoes.

Perhaps the most percipient was the smoothie who on arrival always tips the concierge and the head waiter and seeks out the person who looks after the room. "There is not the slightest point in tipping as you leave — unless you plan to return," he says.

Lord Bradford's Bill aimed at outlawing service and cover charges from restaurant bills has received widespread support and has triggered debate about tipping in Britain. But it does nothing to tackle the problem of travellers to other countries.

Perhaps the Bill should be taken over by the EU. If there was a norm throughout Europe we might be spared those moments of embarrassment. But in the absence of such international legislation, at least the multi-national chains with hotels around the world should tell us clearly whether their staff expect a tip and, if so, whether the money should be given as a lump sum into the communal coffers or to individuals.

KNIGHTS in full armour will joust and falcons will soar and swoop from leathered wrists at the new £42.5 million Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds.

The museum, which will be opened officially by the Queen next month, is displaying some of the hundreds of antique exhibits held by the Tower of London, many of which were left unseen because of lack of space.

There will also be demonstrations of Tudor sword-fighting techniques, 44 specially-made films, opportunities to test the muscle power needed to draw the English longbow and the chance to try on replica armour.

It is the first tourist project to have been developed through the Government's Private Finance Initiative, with half the money coming from the Department of National Heritage, £8 million from Leeds City Council and the rest from commerce and industry.

"Industry takes the risk and makes the profits," says the marketing director Julian Rawell, "but we get the best curatorial expertise."

The venture is another step in the revitalisation of the former textile centre, which is rapidly becoming a short-break destination for tourists from The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. It follows the opening of Tetley's Brewery Wharf, with its history of pubs, and the restoration of five Victorian buildings, including Kirkgate Market, the birthplace of Marks & Spencer.

Research suggests that the museum will attract about



A horseman from the Royal Armouries Museum

750,000 visitors in its first year and one million annually after that.

There will be five galleries, dealing with themes including the tournament, the changing technology of war, self-defence and oriental arms and martial

arts. Costumed "interpreters" will try to convey what it was like to be an archer in Henry V's Army or a musketeer at Blenheim. Children will be able to try their skill in a laser firing range.

Interpreters, mostly former

actors, will need to be hyper-fit. Andrew Deane, for example, takes part in simulated fights wearing armour of mail and mild steel weighing 60lb and holding a 3lb, Italian-made replica poleaxe.

After training as an actor,

he became a circuit-training instructor at a London fitness centre and still runs in the mornings. He says: "It was probably easier for men in the 15th century. They were brought up to it and I suppose that they were well aware just how much energy they should use or conserve."

Tutored by John Waller, who has taught fighting techniques for the stage, two swordsmen are rehearsing Italian-style duelling with rapiers, daggers and small shields called bucklers, anticipating each other's moves and avoiding injury by inches.

"We know some of the techniques from Shakespeare's stage directions," says Mr Waller, The Master of the Armouries, Guy Wilson, adds:

"We are trying to do things in the demonstrations that haven't been done for hundreds of years."

Jousting, which is likely to be limited to the summer, will be lent realism by the sheer weight of the contestants' armour, which will be made in the museum. Riders will be mounted on Lithuanian draught horses, which are suitably deep-chested and short-backed.

## Tired, jetlagged? Just take a couple of pills

BY NIGEL HAWKES

A JETLAG pill could result from research showing that a chemical controls the body's response to light and dark.

The daily rhythms of the body are set by light striking the retina and sending signals to a tiny group of cells just behind the eyes known as the suprachiasmatic nucleus, or SCN. From here, the signals are passed on to the pineal gland, which at appropriate times releases a sleep-inducing hormone, melatonin, into the bloodstream.

Rae Silver, Professor of Psychology at Columbia University, has discovered that the signal is carried between the SCN and the pineal gland, not by electrochemical connections but by a chemical signal — a molecule that diffuses into the brain.

She told the American Association for the Advancement of Science that she is trying to isolate the chemical and hopes that it will be a molecule small enough to cross the blood-brain barrier. That may mean that it can be used as a pill to reset the body clock for shift workers, or people crossing time zones.

Professor Silver removed the SCN — the pacemaker — from the brains of laboratory rats, and showed that without it they slept and woke for a few minutes at a time with no discernible pattern. Once another pacemaker was transplanted in their brains, they regained normal rhythms.

The exact site in which the transplanted pacemaker was put did not seem to matter. It also continued to work even when all the brain cell connections to it were broken. This leads her to the conclusion that the pacemaker operates by releasing a chemical signalling agent which diffuses throughout the brain.

The next stage is to implant pacemakers sealed inside membranes that will allow only light molecules to diffuse through. This will show how large the molecule is, and help to identify it. Isolated, it could provide a way for people to reset their biological clocks at will, which would be a boon to long-distance travellers.

## Hong Kong cost-cutter

A BRUSSELS-Macau air service to be operated by Sabena and Air Portugal from April 1 will undercut British Airways and Cathay Pacific services to Hong Kong by up to 50 per cent. Macau's new airport is 55 minutes by hydrofoil from

Hong Kong. Economy-class

seats for the twice-weekly non-stop flights from Brussels will cost about £600 return and business-class £1,150, compared with £635 to £2,311.

Flights include transfers from some British cities.

TO ADVERTISE

CALL: 0171 481 1989

FAX: 0171 481 9313

## CHECK-IN

PETITS PRIX

# AIR FRANCE

LONDON - PARIS £65

LONDON - NICE £36

LONDON - TOULOUSE £96

BIRMINGHAM - PARIS £75

MANCHESTER - PARIS £89

All fares listed are subject to availability and differing booking and travel periods. Passenger taxes apply. For full details of conditions and our Petits Prix to other worldwide destinations call Air France on 081 742 8000 or contact your travel agent.

TRAILBLAZERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

### Low cost flights worldwide AND UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR RENTAL

Call Trailblazers for the complete tailor-made travel service

**LONDON** Longhaul: 0171-938 3366  
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400  
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

**BIRMINGHAM** Worldwide: 0121-236 1234

**BRISTOL** Worldwide: 0117-929 9000

**GLASGOW** Worldwide: 0141-353 2224

**MANCHESTER** Worldwide: 0161-839 6969  
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

For further information call 0171-938 3366

ASTA: 0423 444444

**FISHING** holidays in France and Austria, with departures from several UK airports on Saturday, are available from Crystal (0181-399 5144). Prices range from £219 a person for a week's bed-and-breakfast accommodation, to £329; half-board or catered.

**CLUB** WEEKEND climbing courses, including lectures and practical rock-climbing, are being offered at the Youth Hostels Association Liangtan and Edale (Peak District) activity centres (0177-85047) for £8 a person.

**CLUB** SAVINGS of up to £440 a person are available from Kuoni (01306 742222) on Easter departures to Jamaica, flying on Air Jamaica's new scheduled service from

**CLUB** FOR the first two weeks in April, 'Queens Most' houses is offering special rates at its 80 UK hotels starting at £43 per person for two nights, or from £64 including dinner. Details: 0645-333 666.

**CLUB** THE 20-room Penbridge Court Hotel, west London, is cutting room prices by 15 per cent to £125.50 per night over Easter. Every guest will be given an Easter chocolate gift in honour of the hotel's resident ginger cats. Spencer and Churchill. Details: 0171-229 9977.

**CLUB** THE Royal and Ermine Hotels in France, are offering free skiing, including all equipment and tuition, for one day of their three-night packages, which are available until March 17. Prices for two people for three nights start at £774.

**CLUB** FREGATA, a specialist in East European flights, has bargain fares to numerous destinations with reputable airlines. Examples: Sofia £237; Minsk £329; Prague £145; Budapest £135; Riga £246; Moscow £269; Kiev £259; Warsaw £166. Details: 0171-451 7000.

**CLUB** TORONTO return, for £229, is being offered on selected flights from Heathrow on Saturdays until the end of March by Air Travel Advisory Bureau. Details: 0171-636 5000.

**CLUB** BRITISH Midland enters the Lieds-Paris route on March 31. Business tickets start at £314, with leisure fares priced at £119. Details: 0345 534554.

**CLUB** JERSEY European has extended its free ticket offer until the end of March.

**Lisbon & Porto** from £137 return with 2 nights free accommodation in 3 star hotel. **Portuguese** 0171 630 9223. All flights are on scheduled services. Bookings must be made by 16th March. Departures up to 26th March 1996. \*Price is per person. 2 adults must travel together, twin occupancy. 3 star hotel B&B, two night stay or a Saturday night. Subject to availability. Caravela Tours Ltd. ATOL 1538. Taxes excluded.

**INCIDENT** on the YANGTSE

The fortunate combination of extra flights to Peking and a slightly larger cruise vessel than originally envisaged have combined to make possible this 15-day itinerary of the heartlands of China at a remarkably low tariff. The itinerary has been planned so as to be more leisurely than the normal tour of China by concentrating on one interesting area while at the same time avoiding the need of hiring internal travelling and the need to pack and unpack each night.

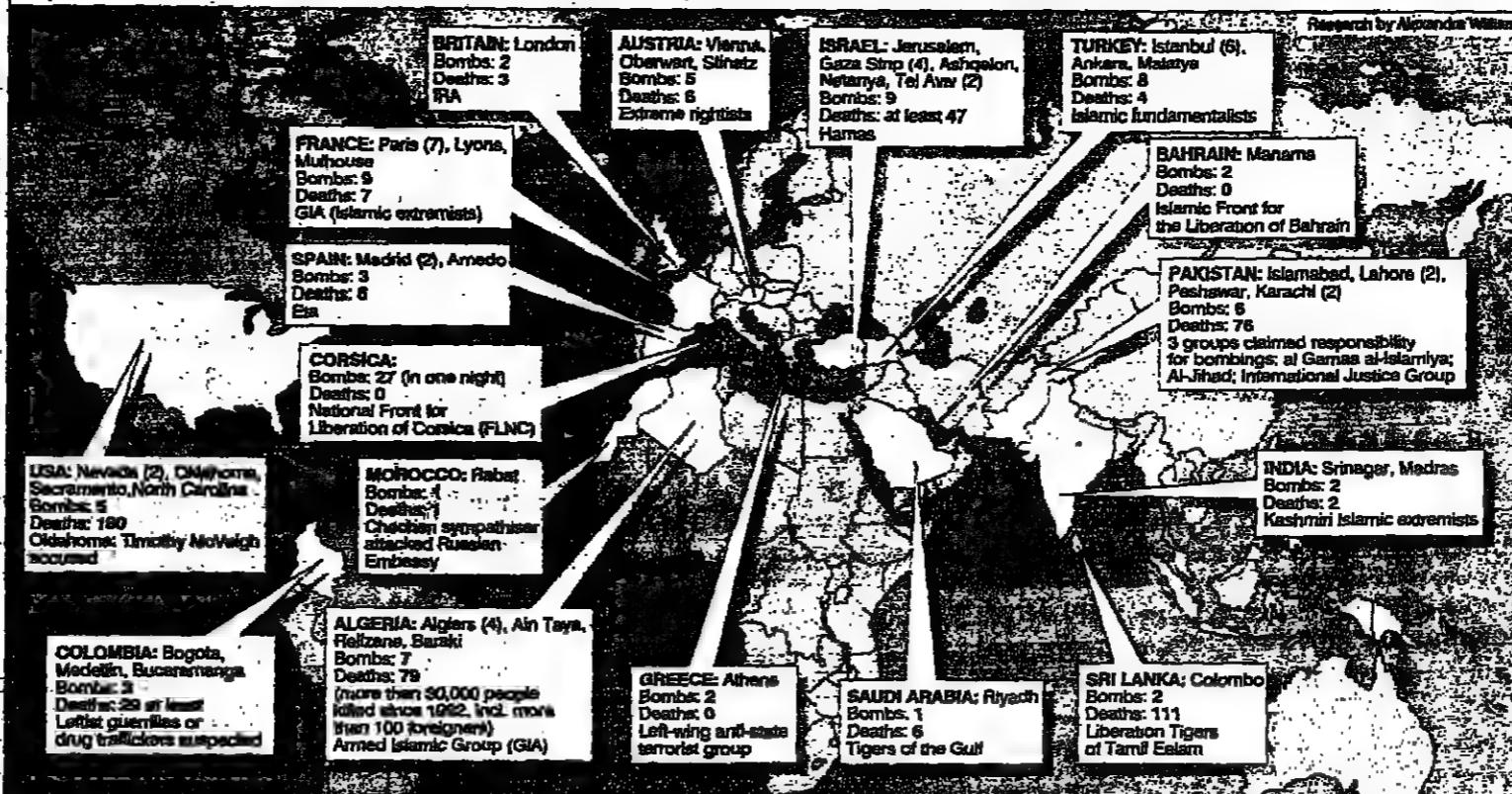
**ITINERARY IN BRIEF**

Day 1 Depart Heathrow on the non-stop flight to Peking. Day 2 Arrive Peking and transfer to the Kyuan Hotel. Days 3 to 6 Peking - during the stay here will be optional visits to the main sights. Day 7 Fly to Chongming. Days 8 to 13 Board the MS Goddess. Cruise the Yangtze River via Wuxian, the famous Three Gorges, Wuhan, Jiuhe and Shashi. Days 14 Arrive Nantong for a city tour, then fly to Peking. Day 15 Depart Peking for London arriving the same day.

Extend your stay to include Xian. Day 5 fly to Xian for two nights on full board at the 4-star Grand Castle Hotel. City sightseeing tour. Visit to the Terracotta Army. On Day 7 fly to Xian to join the group. Supplement £120.

# Terror threat to tourism

## DANGER SPOTS: RECENT BOMB OUTRAGES AROUND THE WORLD



BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

AT LEAST 560 people have been killed by terrorist bombs around the world in the past 12 months, raising fears for the safety of international travellers and jeopardising the growth of travel and tourism, the world's biggest industry.

There have been at least 300 examples of terrorism in cities, from Lahore to London since the start of 1995. Many attacks have gone almost unreported outside the countries in which they happened.

Now big business is beginning to take the problem of security for its travelling staff more seriously, especially in the wake of the recent IRA attacks in London and the bombs in Israel.

The Control Risks Group, which keeps a regular check on international terrorist attacks, has issued its clients with a list of ten things to do to avoid being caught in a bomb blast - and how to react if they are. Among its recommendations are: "Do not be

afraid of voicing your fears, no matter how ridiculous they may seem: no one will thank you if you keep quiet about something which turns out to be a bomb."

"Get down on the ground and cover as much exposed flesh as possible, particularly your face," it says. "Consider spending less time in certain locations than you might otherwise do. Consider staying in low-profile, discreet hotels."

Richard Fenning, head of business development for Control Risks, says: "In the past year or so there have been a large number of high-profile terrorist attacks, such as the Oklahoma bomb, the Tokyo nerve-gas attacks, the Jerusalem bombs, the IRA ending its ceasefire and the attack in Sri Lanka, which even deterred cricketers from playing there."

The trick is for employers to mitigate what small risk there is and to make their employees feel confident when they travel."

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-



Terrorist strike: a bomb attack in Israel on February 25

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

industry - now worth at least £2,000 billion a year to the world's economy - is deeply worried by the apparent growth in the number of major incidents.

There appears to be a growing number of large-scale incidents," says Donna Hoffman, of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, which compiles detailed lists of every terrorist attack.

The centre helped in collecting details for the graphic (above), which lists only large or significant bombs and is by no means complete. It does not, for example, list the many small attacks by animal rights groups, internal domestic terrorist shootings, hijackings or kidnaps, nor does it show such horrors as the Tokyo subway system gas attack.

But it does show that the world is increasingly at risk from small groups of people determined to force their own views on the travelling public, regardless of the death and mayhem they may cause.

Adam Pode, of the Safe Travel Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

dent of the World Travel and Tourism Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse".

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the presi-

## NEWS

## Princess agrees to divorce

The Princess of Wales last night announced she had agreed to a divorce and given up her right to be called Her Royal Highness. The agreement formally to end the marriage was made at a meeting between the Prince and Princess of Wales at her office at St James's Palace late yesterday afternoon.

A spokesman for the Princess said: "The Princess of Wales will be known as Diana Princess of Wales." The Palace appeared to have been caught off-guard. Pages 1, 18, 19

## Date set for Ulster all-party talks

All-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland will begin on June 10. John Major and John Bruton announced after three hours of talks in Downing Street as they intensified the pressure on the IRA to call a fresh ceasefire. The fixed date was welcomed by Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein President. Pages 1, 19

## Labour surge

A MORI poll shows that support for Labour has risen to its highest level since last July as the Tories have been hit by strong public disapproval of their handling of the Scott report. Page 1

## IRA at funeral

The IRA defied the family of Ed O'Brien, the Aldwych bomber, when leading terrorists turned out in force for his funeral in Gores, Co Wexford. Police mingled with the mourners. Page 2

## Think before you call

Patients were urged by the Health Secretary to think twice before calling out their doctor at night to ensure that people in serious need get prompt and efficient care. Page 7

## Drugs Briton jailed

Sandra Gregory, 30, of Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, was taken to the jail known as the Bangkok Hilton after getting 25 years for heroin trafficking. Page 5

## Cancer cash squeeze

A cash shortage is forcing NHS cancer centres to provide a two-tier service, with only some patients being offered the latest treatments. Page 7

## Gulf War plaque

The Queen unveiled a plaque in the crypt of St Paul's in memory of the 47 British servicemen who died in the Gulf War, which ended five years ago. Page 9

## French as she is spelt in England

Custodians of the French language are suggesting that Anglo-American words which have crept into common usage should have French spellings. Le weekend, le leader and le job, should become l'ouïe, le lideur and le job, the newspaper *Le Figaro* declared in a supplement bemoaning the erosion of the French tongue. Page 12



Patsy Kensit, left, and Yasmin Le Bon backstage at John Rocha's London Fashion Week show in the Natural History Museum

## BUSINESS

**Flotation:** Orange, the third largest mobile phone network, is to float off the stockmarket at between £2.2 billion and £2.5 billion, less than expected. Page 25

**Ships:** Work begins today on the first of three Type 23 frigates ordered by the MoD from the General Electric Company's Yarrow yard. Page 25

**Coal:** RJB, the coal mining company which paid £815 million for the east part of British Coal, has hit geological problems at Ashton. Page 25

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 index rose 22.3 points to close at 3738.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.2 to 83.3 after a fall from \$1.5389 to \$1.5342 but a rise from DM2.2360 to DM2.2425. Page 28

**Forbes back in race**

Steve Forbes rose from the ashes in Phoenix and firmly re-established himself as third man in the race for a Republican White House. Page 14

**End of the line**

All seven of President Saddam Hussein's grandchildren may have been butchered in an attempt to wipe out any threat to the regime. Page 15

## SPORT

**Football:** The rock band Oasis, regular attendees at home matches, are negotiating to become sponsors of Manchester City. If successful, their name will be emblazoned across the team's shirts. Page 25

**Rugby union:** Whatever England's game plan for the five nations' championship meeting with Scotland, much of their focus will be directed towards Gregor Townsend. Page 42

**Cricket:** It will take a very good side to stop Australia winning the World Cup, so settled are they and so strong in all areas. Page 46

**Racing:** The last National Hunt meeting at Nottingham takes place today. Poor attendances have caused the executive to transfer its allegiance to Flat racing. Page 43

## LIFESTYLE

## IN THE TIMES

## ■ POP

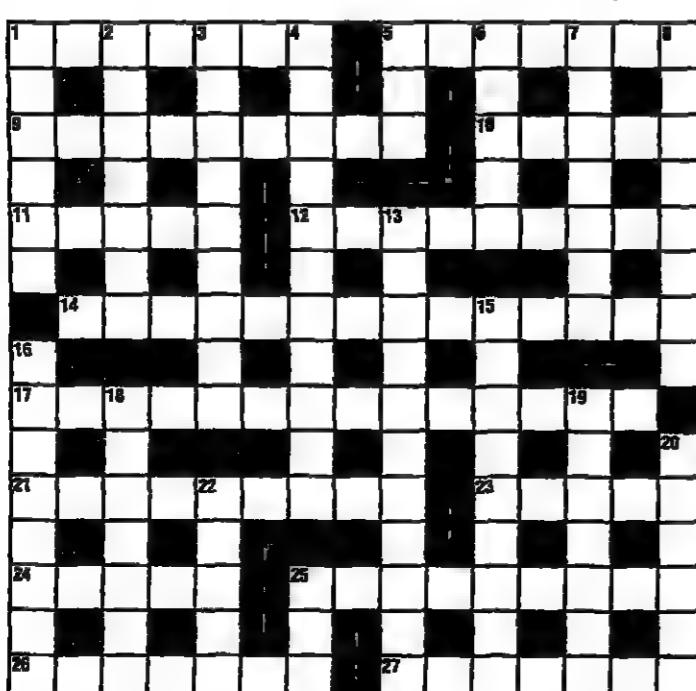
What becomes a legend least? Caitlin Moran on Björk and the perils of pop stardom

## ■ PLUS...

Valerie Grove talks to Peter Carter-Ruck, doyen of libel lawyers



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,103



## ACROSS

1 Skill that's not at all pronounced (4-5).  
5 Help steal piece of luggage (7).  
9 No slave's accepted thus as member of society (9).  
10 Ornate headgear I found in ancient Irish site (5).  
11 Name of first lady's partner — son, too (5).  
12 Hygienic measure opening to coastal inlet required (9).  
14 Military force of king, say, gets order from Napoleon (6,2,6).  
17 Wrongfully intern American shambles (7,7).  
21 Deal with error in scientific expedition (5,4).  
23 Close junction when it gets dark (5).  
24 Inclined to scrape front of door-mat (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,102

**JUNCTION KANSAS**  
E O U M T H  
TEAPARTY GODIVA  
SH D O L L M C  
ABELE FRIAR TUCK  
M R G T I L L  
ARCHITECTURE  
I S E E L O S D  
MONKEY WRENCH  
P O C P H A E  
UNWELCOME INDEX  
T B I D Q N V C  
ENAMEL APPETITE  
N I L A S P  
YALENT HELIBENT

25 Most roast lamb I cooked is heavenly tasting (9).  
26 Immediate reply in letter I posted (7).  
27 Novel type of theatre we are backing (7).  
28 Dostul's threats from assassin holding a duke (7).  
29 Animals' keeper has to move articles over road (8).  
30 Composed a foreign story about northerner (11).  
31 Reforming mood in one part of Russian church (5,4).  
32 Traveller's approach relatively honest we hear (8).  
33 Examination control at university (5-2).  
34 Like part of UK side in America (7).  
35 Hot new scarf put on top (6).  
36 Old fogeys serve parties (5).  
37 A pair of hands, in a certain respect (3).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For regional forecasts, dial 0891 800 followed by regional code:  
Greater London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702  
Berkshire, Oxfordshire, W. Mids., N. W. Mids., N. West 703  
Beds, Bucks, Oxon, W. Mercia, S. Mercia, N. Mercia, N. West 704  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs, West Mids., S. Glam & Gwent, W. Glam & Gwent, W. Wales, W. Mercia 705  
Central, Midland, East Midlands, S. East, N. East, N. Wales, N. West 706  
East Anglia, N. Scotland, S. Scotland, E. Scotland, N. West 707  
S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 708  
W. Scotland, Central Scotland, S. Scotland, E. Scotland, N. Scotland, N. West 709  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 710  
W. Scotland, Central Scotland, S. Scotland, E. Scotland, N. Scotland, N. West 711  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 712  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 713  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 714  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 715  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 716  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 717  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 718  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 719  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 720  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 721  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 722  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 723  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 724  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 725  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 726  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 727  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 728  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 729  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 730  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 731  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 732  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 733  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 734  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 735  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 736  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 737  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 738  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 739  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 740  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 741  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 742  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 743  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 744  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 745  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 746  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 747  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 748  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 749  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 750  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 751  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 752  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 753  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 754  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 755  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 756  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 757  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 758  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 759  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 760  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 761  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 762  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 763  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 764  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 765  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 766  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 767  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 768  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 769  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 770  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 771  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 772  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 773  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 774  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 775  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 776  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 777  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 778  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 779  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 780  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 781  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 782  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 783  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 784  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 785  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 786  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 787  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 788  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 789  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 790  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 791  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 792  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 793  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 794  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 795  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 796  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 797  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 798  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 799  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 800  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 801  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 802  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 803  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 804  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 805  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 806  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 807  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 808  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 809  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 810  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 811  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 812  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 813  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 814  
Wales, S. Wales, S. Mercia, S. Glam & Gwent, S. East, N. East, N. West 815

ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Why Japan is no longer such a safe bet

BOOKS 40, 41

Imogen Stubbs on the lighter side of Sylvia Plath

SPORT 42-48

Sir Stanley recalls memories of better times at Yeovil

GEOFF BROWN REVIEWS THE LATEST FILMS Arts 37-39

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996



Orange, the third largest mobile phone network, said yesterday that its planned flotation will value the company between £2.2 billion and £2.65 billion, a range that is about 15 per cent below brokers' estimates (writes

Eric Reguly; Hans Snook, Orange managing director, left, and Graham Howe, financial director, denied that the valuation was reduced in response to more competitive rival digital tariffs. The company expects 325

million shares to be offered at a price somewhere between 175p to 205p, raising between £30 million and £62.5 million. The global offer, led by Klemmert, Benson and Goldman Sachs, is scheduled to close on March

26, with trading starting the next day. Snook is to receive share options equal to two times his salary of £400,000 in the first year, falling to one times salary in the second and third years. Pennington, page 27

## Spottiswoode condemns Gas service as 'atrocious'

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE EXPECTED clash between British Gas and the industry watchdog over pricing controls moved a step closer yesterday as Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, delivered a series of tough messages to the beleaguered company.

Ms Spottiswoode, who said that complaints to Ofgas had risen by 46 per cent last year and that the company's service in some areas was "truly atrocious", confirmed last week's pessimistic view by Richard Giordano, chairman of British Gas, that the two parties were so far apart on the pricing formula for TransCo that a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was very likely. She said: "Both we and British Gas will be surprised if it doesn't go to the MMC."

Ms Spottiswoode, who signalled at yesterday's presentation of Ofgas's annual report that she had some sympathy for the take-or-pay contract problems of British Gas, said the company would be forced by competition to improve its service and reduce its prices.

Otherwise, she said, customers would follow the example of households in the South West, who are abandoning British Gas in substantial numbers. Labour seized on her warning, saying that increased efficiency in the privatised utilities usually led to a poorer service. Ian McCartney, the party's Employment spokesman, said: "It is typical of the behaviour of privatised utilities that increasing efficiency has led to two more directors helping themselves to pay rises in the boardroom, and 22,000 less staff actually helping customers."

Mr Spottiswoode conceded that in the last two months of 1995 there had been a decline in the rate of complaints, which had largely revolved around billing, and that the company's efforts, orchestrated by Roy Gardner, its finance director, had been impressive.

The gas regulator also gave a warning that British Gas Energy, the soon-to-be segregated company that will supply gas

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKETS		
FTSE 100	3708.2	(+2.3)
Yield	3.63%	
FTSE All share	1843.4	(+0.02)
Yield	1861.3	(+0.43)
New York		
Dow Jones	5578.55	(+30.4)*
S&P Composite	652.54	(+5.30)*
CURRENCIES		
Federal Funds	0.84%	(0.21)
Long Bond	8.44%	(8.47%)
Yield		
COMMODITIES		
3-month Interbank	8.9%	(8.9%)
Little long oil futures (Mcr)	107.7	(107.7)
EXCHANGES		
New York	1,840.7	(1,841.0)
London	1,533.5	(1,539.0)
DM	2,247.4	(2,236.0)
FF	7,594.0	(7,690.0)
SPF	1,322.5	(1,322.5)
FTSE	102.25	(102.5)
FT Index	55.3	(55.3)
USD \$1		
UK £	1.5487	(1.5487)
London	1,533.5	(1,539.0)
DM	2,247.4	(2,236.0)
FF	7,594.0	(7,690.0)
SPF	1,322.5	(1,322.5)
Yen	104.49	(104.32)
FT Index	55.3	(55.3)
Yen		
London close	104.49	
Yen	104.49	
Brent 15-day (May)		
London close	517.75	(517.50)

\* denotes midday trading price

## RJB hits coalface problems at superpit

By GEORGE SIVELL

RJB, the coal mining company which paid £815 million for the English part of British Coal, has struck geological problems at Astfordby, the British Coal superpit which soaked up £400 million of public money before being sold.

Yesterday Richard Budge, the RJB chief executive and founder, wrote off the £78 million value of Astfordby in his balance sheet and agreed a new business plan for the pit with unions and workers. RJB is to try mining two short production coalfaces of 70 metres width instead of the long coalface of 150 metres being attempted at the moment. This will give RJB time to reassess the medium and long-term viability of the pit over the next six to nine months. The present plan avoids redundancies.

Astfordby was built after a planning application by British Coal for three separate pits in Leicestershire was rejected but lies on the very edge of the coal deposits making mining much more difficult.

In a trading statement to the Stock Exchange, RJB said that increased production elsewhere in the group had made up for Astfordby's second-half losses of £16.3 million and that profits for 1995 would still be in line with market forecasts.

The announcement left RJB shares down 14p at 527p.

RJB also revealed that its £36.8 million debt pile raised in December 1994 to acquire the English part of British Coal

had fallen to £55 million at December 31, 1995, and that it

has paid £12 million of the

deferred £117 million due to the Government.

## MPs to demand OFT inquiry into Exchange

By ROSEMARY MILLMAN

THE Commons Treasury Select Committee is expected to ask the Office of Fair Trading to again investigate charges that the Stock Exchange is anti-competitive because a handful of the largest member firms dictate policy.

The move follows an OFT investigation following the appearance before MPs yesterday of Michael Lawrence, the former chief executive of the London Stock Exchange, who was abruptly dismissed from his £342,000 post last month. Mr Lawrence told the influential Commons committee that he believed his dramatic sacking was due to opposition by the City's leading market-making houses to his proposed introduction of an electronic

"order matching" system of share trading.

Mr Lawrence, who gave evidence for more than two hours, specifically named BEW, the securities arm of Barclays Bank, Smith New Court, now absorbed by Merrill Lynch, and SBC Warburg, as the main opponents of his reforms.

When pushed by Diane Abbott, Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Mr Lawrence indicated that BEW and Merrill/Smith New Court were the most vocal in their opposition.

Clive Betts, another Labour committee member, asked Mr Lawrence if he would have kept his post if John Kemp-Welch, the chairman of the Stock Exchange and a former senior member of Conservative, had stood by him. "I am

certain," replied Mr Lawrence. Committee sources indicated last night that, in the light of this reply, Mr Kemp-Welch is likely to be invited to appear before MPs again.

In his evidence to the Treasury committee headed by Sir Tom Arnold, Mr Lawrence said that as far as he was concerned "the reform programme I led had the support of the chairman of the Exchange and of the Board". As late as November 1995, the chairman assured me of his support for the trading reforms and the board, despite lobbying, fully supported the proposals. Mr Lawrence confirmed: "I received no warning at any time that I did not enjoy their support although we were all aware of the opposition of certain market-makers." My

last discussion with the chairman was on December 22. On January 4, just before a board meeting, Mr Lawrence said the chairman and Ian Salter, deputy chairman and a director of SGST (Investment Advisers), the French investment bank, "advised me that I had lost the board's confidence and the purpose of the meeting was to secure my removal from office".

Last night the Stock Exchange denied the suggestion that Mr Lawrence's high-profile sacking, which has privately caused grave concern to MPs on all sides of the House, was the result of a cartel of self-interested members. A spokeswoman said: "It was a loss of confidence built up over a period of time by an accumu-

lation of issues and it was a decision of the board which represents a wide range of interests in the market.

SCB Warburg said: "We are not opposed to reform and this was not about one person or the personality. Our concern was that we felt the process was being pushed through too fast without proper analysis and with insufficient consultation with the members. It is typical of the behaviour of privatised utilities that increasing efficiency has led to two more directors helping themselves to pay rises in the boardroom, and 22,000 less staff actually helping customers."

Mr Lawrence, however, was firm in his view yesterday that if self-interest groups were allowed to impose their will on the rest of the market then the future for the Stock Exchange was bleak.

## Yarrow wins frigate contract

By ROSE TRUMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WORK will begin today on the first of three Type 23 frigates ordered by the Ministry of Defence from the General Electric Company's Yarrow shipyard in a £400 million package yesterday.

The order will save the jobs of 200 workers among the 650 put on notice of redundancy last month. But Yarrow, Thornycroft, the Southampton warship-builder undercut by GEC in the bidding contest, said it would have to shed 450 workers. The order comes after a cut-throat competition between Britain's two remaining warship builders to assemble the last ships in the current generation of anti-submarine frigates.

GEC Marine, which also

owns the VSEL yard at Barrow, was determined to keep Yarrow from making a return to the construction of larger ships.

With two frigates for Malaysia nearing completion, the yard needed the Royal Navy orders to maintain its workflow, despite a recent order for three offshore patrol vessels for Brunel.

Murray Easton, Yarrow's managing director, said: "It was a very tough competition based on very hard-fought commercial lines and what it does is establish Yarrow's position both within the UK and in the very high priority of world-class shipbuilders."

He added that Yarrow remained strong with a £400 million order book. Analysts said the company was likely to face a £15 million redundancy charge.

Shares in Yarrow slumped 41p to 435p after the announcement. Martin Jay, managing director, said the company would have to make 300 redundancies this year and would not renew the contracts of 150 short-term workers.

He added that Yarrow remained strong with a £400 million order book. Analysts said the company was likely to face a £15 million redundancy charge.

## Yorkshire Water counts the cost of supply hitches

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

YORKSHIRE WATER yesterday disclosed the cost of its supply problems of last year, when the company, which had to mount huge tankering operations, made a provision of £47 million.

With company chiefs due soon before the inquiry into the drought shortages, Yorkshire said that £27 million had been spent on tankering, which, at its height, had 700 tankers a day coming from the Tees to water treatment centres in Yorkshire. The rest of the money was spent on emergency pumping, standpipes and goiters to encourage the region's 1.7

million households to use water sparingly.

Tankering ended on January 13, but hosepipe bans remain and prohibition of unnecessary use of water — such as for car cleaning — operates in many parts of the region.

Last year, Yorkshire Water said that it was putting an extra £100 million into pipeline investments as consumers and MPs criticised its leakage rate, which has been measured at 33 per cent.

The company says that no more tankering will be necessary this year even if rainfall is as little as last year.

Yesterday, it said that emergency pumping facilities that took water from rivers were being dismantled as a measure of confidence that they will not be needed this year. Reservoir levels in Yorkshire are running at about 50 per cent, it said.

Ofwat said that customers would not be affected by the company's need to adhere to Ofwat price controls. Two weeks ago, Yorkshire caused an outcry when it announced a price rise of 5.6 per cent — the maximum allowable under Ofwat regulations.

Pennington, page 27

The Ponte Vecchio is where you'll find all the traditional goldsmiths, silversmiths and antique dealers. Fly non-stop to Florence.

Meridiana Your Private Airline

For information and booking see your travel agent or phone Meridiana on 0171/839-2222.

Florence  
London

## Another move on pension splitting

By ANNE ASHWORTH

NEW moves will be made today to allow pensions to be split when couples divorce, in spite of Government objections to reform, based on an estimated £200 million cost of the measure.

Baroness Hollis of Heigham, Labour social security spokesman in the Lords, will this afternoon table an amendment to the Family Law Bill requiring that pensions be divided upon divorce. Lady Hollis, the prime mover in the campaign for a fairer deal for wives who divorce in middle life, expects all-party support for the proposal, even from peers opposed to the rest of the Bill, which introduces divorce after a year.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, made clear his opposition to pension-splitting last week. Matrimonial lawyers, the pensions industry, and the Confederation of British Industry consider splitting fairer and simpler than division at retirement, as laid out in the Pensions Act 1995.

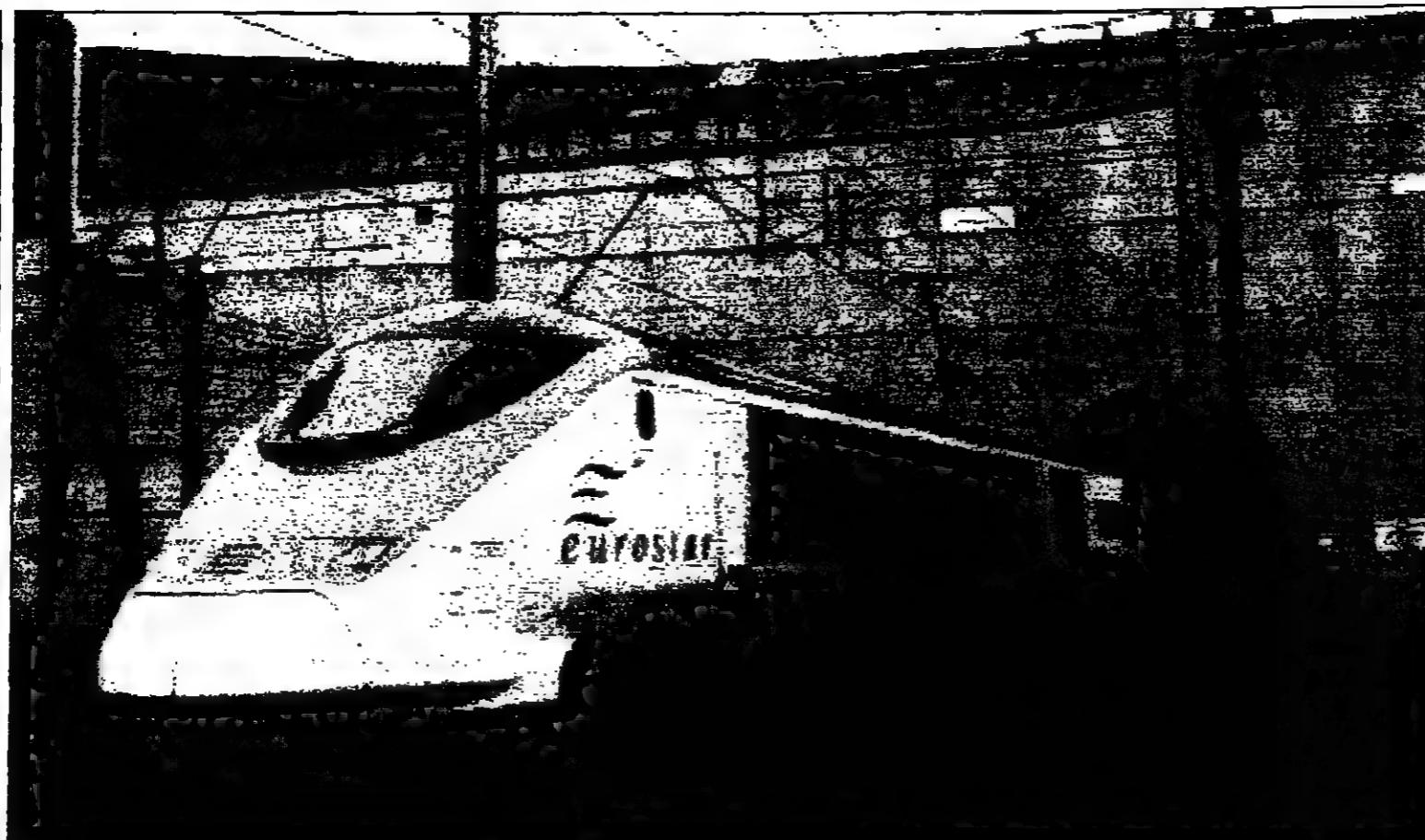
This week, the Department of Social Security produced figures showing that pension-splitting would cost £600 million, if all couples, married, divorced or separated, opted to divide their pensions. Splitting for divorced couples only would cost £200 million by the 2037.

Yesterday, Lady Hollis said: "The suggestion that there would be irresistible political pressure to allow all couples to split their pensions ignores all the other advantages that married couples enjoy over those who have divorced, the major financial advantage being the lower cost of running one household."

She said: "The Government continues to accept that, up to 2020, tax costs and benefit and Legal Aid savings would cancel each other out. Any figures beyond 2020 are so dependent on what happens to the tax, benefit and pensions systems as to be meaningless."

Lord Mackay has called for further research and cited technical difficulties, one of which centres on public sector unfunded schemes for civil servants, in which there are no easily-divided assets.

Opponents of pension-splitting say that it leaves divorced couples in a more tax-advantageous position than married couples.



London & Continental's first priority will be to turn round the Eurostar service, which is costing the taxpayer £200 million a year

## Virgin consortium wins £3bn Tunnel rail link contract

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SIR GEORGE YOUNG will today announce in the Commons that London & Continental, a consortium including Virgin Group and National Express, has been awarded the £3 billion contract to build the Channel Tunnel rail link.

The decision, which is two months behind schedule, follows months of tortuous negotiations between Department of Transport officials and the consortium and paves the way for the biggest rail transport project in Britain this century.

The consortium is expected to begin work on the 68-mile

link through East London and Kent next year, with completion by 2003. It will allow Eurostar trains to speed at 186 mph from London to the entrance of the Channel Tunnel, slashing half an hour off journey times between the British and French capitals.

The deal, the largest ever struck under the private finance initiative, also gives London & Continental responsibility for running Eurostar on the existing 100mph Railtrack line, along the route of the link. St Pancras station, the main London terminal for the link, and Water-

loo International. The Government is expected to inject up to £1 billion of taxpayers' money into the project.

London & Continental has seen off competition from three rival bidders for the contract and appears to have won mainly because of the air and bus transport experience of Virgin and National Express.

The other shareholders are Ove Arup, Bechtel, Sir William Halcrow and SG Warburg.

London & Continental's first priority will be to turn round the Eurostar service, which is costing the taxpayer £200 million a year because it has

failed to attract forecast numbers of passengers.

Three million passengers used the service last year, its first full year of operation, compared with the six million forecast as recently as 1994.

European Passenger Services, the Government-owned company that operates Eurostar in partnership with the French and Belgian national railways, has been criticised for poor marketing of the service and inadequate ticket availability.

It has aimed its service at the business market and has failed to attract the mass market business it needs to fill the

trains, which each have as many seats as a Jumbo Jet.

Although the Paris service has picked up, the Brussels service has been running at about one third capacity.

There is also still poor

understanding of the differ-

ence between Eurostar,

the capital-to-capital passenger service, and Eurotunnel, which operates Le Shuttle drive-on car train between

Portsmouth and Calais.

London & Continental is

expected to launch a massive

overhaul of Eurostar advertising

and ticket distribution

when it takes over on April 1.

## Japanese lender has £2bn debts

FROM PEARLNG HODSON

IN TOKYO

## Hanson sells part of Cavenham for \$500m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY



Lord Hanson: on track

as a non-core business at the end of last year.

Hanson is keen to make a prompt disposal of Cavenham to help to reduce the company's gearing, which stands at about 130 per cent after the £2.5 billion purchase last year of Eastern Group, the electricity company. The group, led by Lord Hanson, is aiming to raise a further £500 million by a public sale-off of part of its stake in Surburban Projects of the US.

Hanson has been under pressure to reduce its debt after announcing that it would split into four separate companies. The demerger plans have provoked fears over the prospective debt positions of the new companies. Hanson's shares closed unchanged at 185p last night.

William Landuyt, Hanson Industries chief executive, said: "This puts us ahead of schedule and negotiations are continuing for the sale of the balance of the southern assets and Cavenham's northwest timberland." In 1995 profits at Cavenham dropped 19 per cent to £95 million and the company was earmarked for

## TUC seeks input from business

By PHILIP BASSITT

INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

## Treaty limit exceeded

BRITAIN'S government deficit totalled 6.9 per cent of gross domestic product in 1994, far above the Maastricht treaty criterion of a maximum of 3 per cent, according to the Central Statistical Office. The general government gross debt outstanding was 50.4 per cent of GDP in 1994, well below the Maastricht reference level of 60 per cent. In August, the deficit was 6.1 per cent of GDP; debt was 50.5 per cent. In 1993, the figures were 7.8 per cent and 48.5 per cent.

## Bank home loans ahead

NET mortgage lending by the leading banks increased by 7.8

per cent in January, giving an encouraging start to the year.

Seasonally adjusted figures published yesterday by the British Bankers' Association on behalf of banks accounting for 34 per cent of total gross lending and 45 per cent of net mortgage lending, showed that net lending increased from a rise of £529 million in December to a rise of £564 million in January.

Bank home loans ahead

NET mortgage lending by the leading banks increased by 7.8 per cent in January, giving an encouraging start to the year. Seasonally adjusted figures published yesterday by the British Bankers' Association on behalf of banks accounting for 34 per cent of total gross lending and 45 per cent of net mortgage lending, showed that net lending increased from a rise of £529 million in December to a rise of £564 million in January.

## Gent maintains interim

SR GENT, the clothing manufacturer, is maintaining the interim dividend at 10p after returning profits almost unchanged at £2.8 million before tax for the six months to the end of December, compared with £2.7 million. Turnover from continuing activities advanced 7 per cent to £73.6 million from £68.8 million. The company said the rise in underlying profits endorsed its strategy of concentration on garment manufacturing.

The TUC is contacting the CBI, the Institute of Directors, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Institute of Management and the Institute of Personnel and Development.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The unions want to examine ways to establish minimum standards on a range of issues, including job security, access to education and training, minimum wages, union representation and the general extension of European-style social partnership.

The TUC is contacting the CBI, the Institute of Directors, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Institute of Management and the Institute of Personnel and Development.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards — reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opting out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

PPI 'knew about £400,000 trap'

Regulator challenges

Skills show mind

How shall we

New building

□ THE various woes of British Gas and Yorkshire Water are quite different, but they are, in both cases, self-inflicted. Both companies, along with a third, South West Water, have managed to provide an object lesson in how to destroy a company's reputation as a public utility.

From Yorkshire Water's anguish-blessings, one might suspect that global warming or some awful tragedy in the upper atmosphere had transplanted the climate of Death Valley or Abu Dhabi to the Yorkshire Dales. True, the company has yet to poison large numbers of customers, a trick that South West has managed not once but twice, once in public hands and once in private, and what little water there is in Yorkshire has not been tipped into the sea.

Yorkshire Water has, however, fallen in public esteem at least as far as South West, and arguably farther. This is a difficult trick in public relations terms, because its performance is probably not that far behind the rest of the water companies. Yorkshire loses, depending on what measure you use, 33 or 26 per cent of its supplies between the reservoir and the tap, not significantly worse than others in the industry.

Last summer it was hampered by a local geographical quirk that meant that the traditionally

wettest areas, where reservoirs had not previously been deemed necessary, were the driest. Supplies could not be switched across the county because of the poor state of the pipes. An apparently viable plan to bring water in from the Kielder Dam, in neighbouring Northumbrian territory, came to nothing.

But however hard the company spin doctors insist, quite rightly, that not a pipe has run dry in Yorkshire, the public perception is quite the opposite. Such a perception is as difficult to turn round as a super-tanker – just as British Gas. The number of householders left shivering in the cold this winter was fairly small – but public perception again, suggests the opposite.

Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, has now stated the blindingly obvious, a fact appreciated even within British Gas itself. Bad service means lost customers, both for gas supply and for maintenance and servicing.

British Gas's true woes, of course, lie with the North Sea take-or-pay contracts, which have nothing to do with its relationship with the customers.

□ PR disasters in water and gas □ The future is flotation □ Research in the champagne style

## We all need to be loved

However, because of this low public esteem, it has proved impossible for the Government to bail the company out.

Here is the clearest parallel with Yorkshire Water. Dennerle was forced on British Gas, ideally leaving all liabilities with one half of the company, because otherwise the shareholders would have had to suffer through lower dividends. Ian Byatt, the water regulator, has also made clear that Yorkshire shareholders should foot the bill, both for spending on pipeline repairs and on compensation payments. There are times when popularity has its benefits.

### Orange alert for phone price war

□ ORANGE came out of nowhere less than two years ago to become, with about 440,000 subscribers at the last count, the country's third-largest mobile phone network. That network is taking on digital customers at a faster rate than Vodafone and Cellnet, its older and larger rivals, and, unlike them, has



managed to establish a strong brand image with its "the future is bright, the future is Orange" catchphrase. Hutchinson Whampoa and British Aerospace are so pleased with Orange's prospects that next month's flotation has become the most hyped offering of the year. Punters, they believe, are lined up around the world.

Potential investors might want to consider the evolving state of the industry before taking a bite. Vodafone and Cellnet are now putting out the message that the great mobile phone party is over. They have been surprisingly tolerant of Orange's youthful abandon, but now that the youngster has grown up a bit, they feel the urge to impose some discipline. On

April 1, only five days after Orange's shares are scheduled to start trading on the Nasdaq market and on the London Stock Exchange, Vodafone's lower digital tariffs come into effect.

Vodafone claims that the new prices are only 5 per cent higher than Orange's and that the price differential is worth it because its coverage is more extensive. In the same month, the company will launch a £20 million advertising blitz in an effort to stem the flow of customers to Orange, Cellnet, which more or less copies Vodafone's every move, is bound to follow suit.

We are seeing the start of a marketing and price war that was not supposed to arrive for another few years, given the strong growth still available. Orange has not changed its tariffs since the service was launched in April 1994, but, as competitors drop prices, it may have to follow suit. If so, break-even point and the first dividends are pushed further out.

A tacit admission that Orange is nervous about the competition was the setting of the flotation value at between £2.2 billion and

£2.45 billion, some 15 per cent less than brokers' estimated valuations. Orange, it appears, is quietly preparing for war.

### Nice work if you can get it

□ "YOU are a senior executive in a large money-management firm with responsibility for increasing performance, revenue and profitability," a letter to the editor of this column opens.

Wrong, but never mind. Enclosed is an invitation, full price £1,300 but £1,200 to you, it says, to the Hotel Martinez in Cannes this June for two days of um research into fund management.

It sounds like hell. High on the list of attractions are "Champagne round-tables to increase business interaction", a gala dinner and plenty of cocktail parties. The full-day workshops to really focus on the key issues are, quite rightly, described as "optional". Why waste time on the key issues, when you could be at a cocktail party?

It gets worse. The delegate is offered a "multi-stream" à la

carte format" that allows you to "create your own ideal conference agenda". Take a note, Miss Smith: top of the agenda is, oh, a cocktail party or two, then we'll have a couple of those Champagne things, and let's not forget the gala dinner.

Who on earth goes on these extraordinary junkets? More than 300 senior fund management executives at the last one, in Montreux, a fine place to ratchet up the expense account in a country where even the snow has to be paid for by the foot.

So if you work in fund management and the boss mysteriously disappears on June 19, you know where to find him.

### Pit provision

□ ASFORDBY, a small town between Leicester and Melton Mowbray, always seemed a draft place to build a super-pit, being situated on the very edge of what may yet turn out to be a halfway decent coalfield. British Coal sank the best part of £400 million into it. New King Coal, aka Richard Budge, now has his doubts, and has written its value down to zero. If he does succeed at Asfordby, yesterday's £78 million provision will start feeding back into profit. That would be another master stroke from the man they all said paid too much for British Coal.

## Huge charge pushes BICC to £67m loss

By ALASTAIR MURRAY

BICC, the cables and construction group, announced full-year losses of £67 million yesterday after confirming it was taking exceptional charges totalling £176 million.

The exceptional items include an £82 million charge for restructuring in the cable division and a £78 million loss on the sale of Clarke Homes, its unprofitable housebuilding division, which was sold to Wembury Homes for £61 million.

Operating profits fell by 16 per cent to £150 million, while the dividend was cut from 14.5p to 12.5p. BICC had already announced most of the bad news to the market and the share price rose 7p to 297p after the company said it expected improved results from the cable division this year.

BICC shed about 1,000 jobs from its cabling division last year but warned that with demand in Germany still weak the company would consider making further cuts. The company blamed a fall in demand for cable systems after privatisation and deregulation in the electricity sector, as well as a rise in raw material prices, for its difficulties. The cable divi-

sions made an operating profit of £229 million, a fall of 4 per cent on last year.

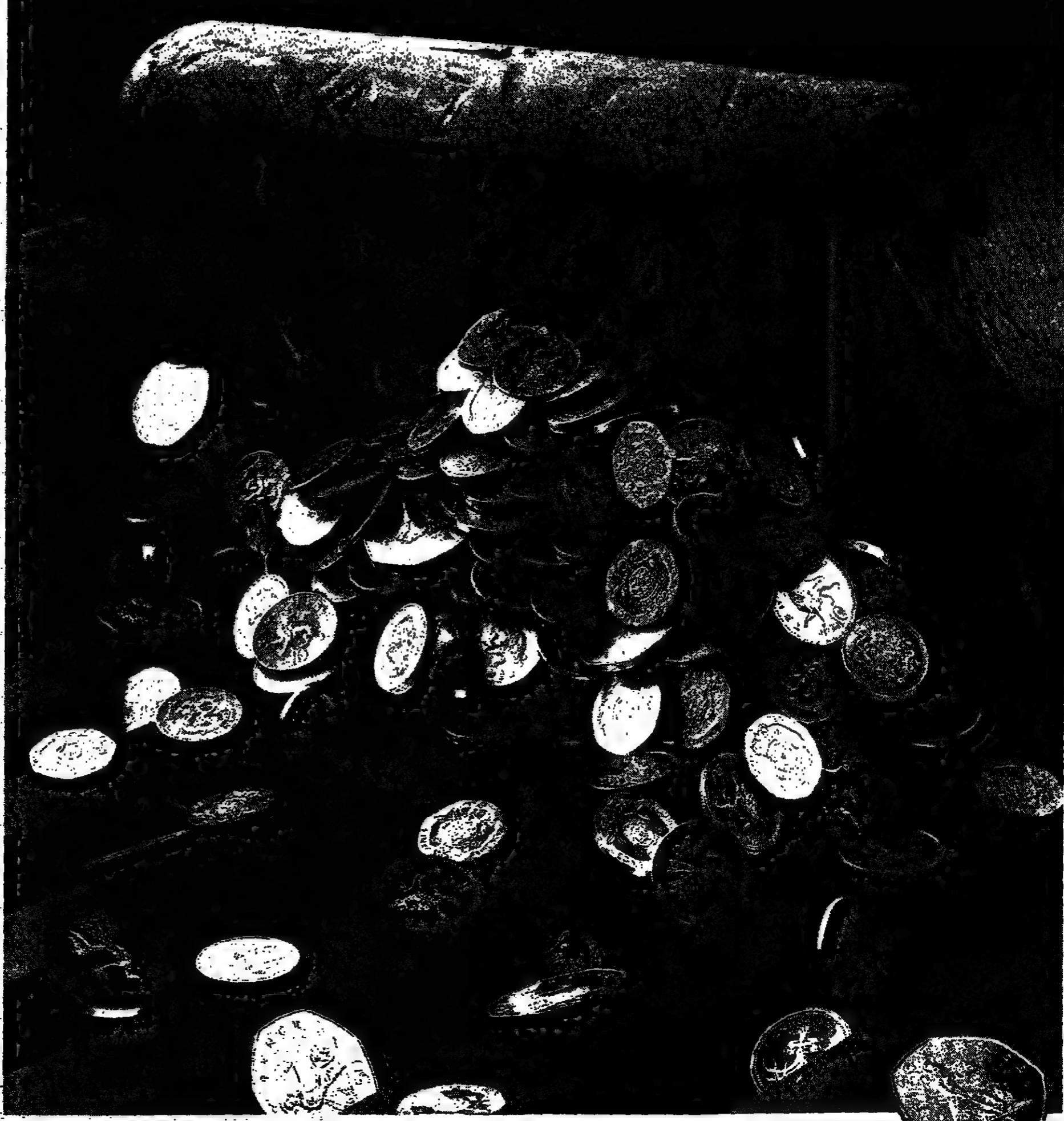
Profits in Balfour Beatty, the construction division, fell 58 per cent to £16 million in the weak UK construction market. BICC also said a net charge of £5 million after the delay in the completion of the Heathrow Express project caused by a tunnel collapse.

The property division made sales of £47 million last year, after BICC's earlier announcement that it was looking to dispose of £100 million of assets. The company also took a £10 million charge to cover losses caused by the weak market and the company's desire to accelerate disposals.

BICC expects to learn today whether it has won the £2.3 billion contract to build the Channel Tunnel rail link. The company bid as part of a consortium against another led by the Virgin group. BICC said that even if it failed to win, it expected to gain some cabling and electrification work. The dividend will be payable on July 1.

Tempus, page 28

## STILL DOING THIS WITH YOUR COMPANY'S MONEY?



## THEN WE'LL GIVE YOU A GRANT TO STOP IT.

How much money is your company letting out through the roof, sending up in smoke or pouring down the drain? After all, businesses exist to make money, not dispose of it.

Patrick Gillam, chairman of Standard Chartered, said: "We would much rather have a form of continuing relationship with Wells Fargo than a contractual argument."

Standard Chartered yesterday impressed the City with pre-tax profits for 1995 up 30 per cent to £601 million, at the top end of forecasts. The dividend is up 38 per cent to 11p, with the final payment of 7.5p due on May 31.

There is a financial penalty if the American bank walks away. However, its new parent has a similar agreement with HSBC. Standard

SCEEMAS – The Small Company Environmental and Energy Management Assistance Scheme – provides a grant of between 40% and 50% of the cost of expert guidance towards registration.

And to the public and your customers, EMAS registration is written proof of an environmentally responsible business.

If your company employs fewer than 250 people and has a turnover of less than £16 million each year, fill in the coupon and find out how SCEEMAS can help.

A system to minimise what you throw away and, as a result, increase your margins.

Please return the coupon to: The SCEEMAS Office, NIFES House, Sinderland Road, Broadheath, Altringham, Cheshire WA14 5HQ. Or telephone 0345 023423 Or fax 0161-926 8718.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Business \_\_\_\_\_

**SCEEMAS**  
Department of the Environment

Tempus, page 28



## THE TIMES



## CITY DIARY

## Art deco at Lloyds TSB

SIR Nicholas Goodison, deputy chairman at Lloyds TSB, has been casting a critical eye over Lloyds' art deco offices in Lombard Street, where executive status is measured by the distance of the office from the garish yellow linoleum on level four.

"Where most people feel quite queasy on first sight of the yellow flooring, which is under a preservation order, Sir Nicholas is rather fond of it. 'It's not the linoleum, it's the subtle, quiet, fluorescent lighting and the magnolia walls,' he says. 'We really must look into the intentions of the original architect.'

## Hand of Tiny

TINY ROWLAND yesterday demonstrated that he doesn't always have to use a sharp tongue against his corporate enemies. His right arm is almost as powerful.

At Lloyds' annual meeting yesterday, where Tiny's once favoured corporate "son" Dieter Stock and Lorraine director Jonathan Platts-Mills were up for re-election, Tiny raised his arm to vote against both of them. He didn't win the day against a sea of "yes" votes, but the broad smile on his face was still evident well after the meeting ended.

## Gin sling

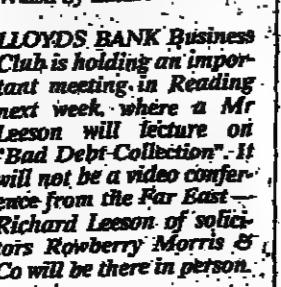
ANN GLOAG, owner of Beaumont Castle and a founder of the Stagecoach empire, has had her name confused with a new brand of gin. Produced by Matthew Glaag & Son, Gloag's Gin is by chance distilled in the site of former Stagecoach offices in Perth, but the family denies it is wearing that. Ann was married to a distant cousin of Matthew Glaag, but she plays no part in the polling of juniper berries.

A portrait of Ann Gloag, owner of Beaumont Castle and a founder of the Stagecoach empire.

## Gloag juniper berries

## The new Taffia

A NEW Internet venture to put Welsh businesses in contact — in stay in a hotel run by a Welsh person or eat at a Welsh restaurant — is called Taffia, the collective noun otherwise used to describe David Prosser of Legal & General, Wynford Evans of the Bank of Wales, and Hugh Jenkins of the Hamroes Trust, eminent money men who were the original Taffia. Jenkins said: "It's more a network than an Italian family. Welsh by root Welsh by nature."

A portrait of David Prosser, founder of Taffia.

## Green fingers

BRIAN QUINN, the Bank of England executive director now partying his way to retirement, has not lost his Scottish campaness in the skirt of the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street. He is too well aware that some of those keenest to obtain his services might be the least appropriate. He will guard his City credit rating jealously and will enjoy his compulsory three months' gardening leave without rushing into anything.

## COLIN CAMPBELL

# Why Tokyo has become a riskier bet than New York

How changing conditions have totally transformed the Japanese stock market

**T**wo months ago I said in my regular column of new year predictions that the biggest financial surprise of 1996 would be the continuing strength of the US stock market, particularly in comparison with the miserable performance I expected from Japan. This stance put me directly at odds with most professional financial analysts.

Yesterday, Tokyo's Nikkei index fell below the 20,000 mark for the first time this year, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average continued to encounter resistance some 10 per cent above its level of December 29. It seemed an appropriate time to take stock.

The situation on Wall Street, which Anthony Harris and I discussed on February 13 and 14, when Wall Street first ran into resistance at about 3,600 on the Dow, has attracted a good deal of attention — mostly from the Cassandra who have been predicting a 1929-style crash ever since the market started rising about 18 months ago.

For the moment, events seem to be bearing out the less dramatic view expressed here on February 13, that US equities have probably now gone high enough to become a "sell" for short-term traders and very cautious savers, but that more daring long-term investors who feel they can see through a moderate correction — or a lengthened period of choppy trading — should hang on for more gains in the second half of the year.

Japan, however, is actually the more interesting leg of the global strategists' costly two-way bet. According to the latest Merrill Lynch/Gallup surveys, UK fund managers are bulls on Japan, continuing bears by a margin of 89 per cent to 16 per cent. A similar poll of Continental European managers showed a bullish margin of 78-22 and American surveys have come up with broadly similar results.

More remarkably still, according to a paper on Japan's new stockmarket "bubble" from David Asher, an Oxford-based consultant on Japanese finance, foreigners were net buyers of stock in every single month from March to December last year, while domestic investors were net sellers.

As a result, the foreign ownership of Japan's stock market has jumped from 6.7 per cent to 9.3 per cent in less than a year. Given that the "free-float" of shares which are not owned for reasons of long-term business relationships number about 40 per cent of the total, foreigners now own roughly one-quarter of all the tradable equities in Japan.

The first question to ask is why foreign investors have been so bullish about Japan.

It is at this point that I part

company with the conventional

bubble". Quite simply,

the present price of Japanese shares — even with the Nikkei at "only" 20,000 — already discounts a profits recovery of staggering proportions. The figures are mind-boggling, even by Japanese standards.

The price/earnings ratio on the Nikkei, in terms of historic earnings already announced, was 130 in mid-January. As Mr Asher notes this is 30 per cent higher than the peak of the 1989 "bubble" and six times higher than the P/E on Wall Street in the present boom.

Everyone knows that profits in Japan will rise, but even on prospective earnings, the P/E ratio is between 70 and 80. As Mr Asher notes: "Even though equity returns in Japan at

present are on the way up, their growth rate is far behind the expectations reflected in stock values. At some point the laws of gravity will prevail."

Japan's equity valuations have traditionally been extremely high P/Es — partly reflecting very high rates of investment and of depreciation — because of the exceptionally fast growth of the economy and of company profits. But is it still reasonable to expect such exceptional growth?

Most Japanese believe it is not — which is presumably why they are huge sellers of their own equity market. Foreigners, by contrast, seem to believe that present valuations in Tokyo are a bargain and therefore, implicitly, that Japan will soon return to extremely rapid growth.

This seems unlikely. While the yen will probably weaken again, it is unlikely to move anywhere near the level of Y120 which Japan needs to restore decent industrial profitability — at least until after the US presidential election. In the longer-term Japan's financial balances are shifting. The era of big trade surpluses is over. The Government is now running chronic budget deficits and demographics could eventually transform Japan from the world's largest saver into a debtor nation.

Most importantly, the combination of the bubble economy, the yen shock, the trade pressure from America and the exhaustion of opportunities to "catching up" with American technology have transformed Japan from a very high growth economy to one which can, at best, hope to grow only slightly faster than the OECD average.

None of this implies that the Tokyo market will fall far below current levels, since

## The Bank of England's role in the inflation debate

From Mr Mervyn King

Sir, I welcome Professor Ken Wallis's support (Letters, February 22) of Anatole Kaletsky's call for an open and better-informed debate on monetary policy. The Bank's *Inflation Report* is our contribution to that debate. Professor Wallis, however, would like the Bank to produce "more realistic" forecasts by basing its published projection of inflation on its own best guess about future interest rates. But it is not the Bank's role to speculate

late publicly about the level of interest rates which the Chancellor will set; it is to advise on the rate that he should set. That is why our projection is conditional upon an explicit assumption about, not a forecast of, interest rates. That assumption — that official interest rates are maintained at current levels — makes it possible to assess the direction in which inflation is likely to move in the absence of a policy change. Of equal importance is that not only does the

*Inflation Report* make clear the assumptions on which the projection is based, but it also contains an explicit assessment of the risks and uncertainties attached to that projection. I hope, therefore, that Professor Wallis will welcome the more open and better-informed presentation of the Bank's views on inflation.

Yours faithfully,

MERVYN KING

Executive Director,

Bank of England, EC2

## Unrelated to Sequence

From Mr Paul Symons

St. In your edition of February 24, you published an article titled "Crest fails to win over many big investors".

The article discussed the proposed order-driven trading system, on which the Stock Exchange is currently consulting with its members, but persistently referred to it as Crest. I must stress that Crest is quite unrelated to the Stock

Exchange's new trading system, which is called Sequence. Crest is the new equity settlement system being built by the Bank of England with finance and management provided by the private sector through CrestCo. It remains as it always has been, on time and on budget.

Crest will go live on July 15, 1996, providing London with a modern settlement system reducing risk and increasing efficiency while giving investors

the option of retaining their share certificates, if they so wish.

The developments affecting the equity market in 1996 are complex and extremely important for the future of London as a major financial centre. Yours faithfully,

PAUL SYMONS

Manager,

CrestCo Ltd,

Trinity Tower,

9 Thomas More Street,

El

tors the option of retaining their share certificates, if they so wish.

The developments affecting the equity market in 1996 are complex and extremely important for the future of London as a major financial centre.

Yours faithfully,

MRS P. ALDRED

54 Belmont Park, SE13

El

Most of Forte's hotels were not "built since 1935" but acquired as going concerns and milked for whatever assets and goodwill they could provide. That's the way things are in hotels and catering. I am sure Mr Gerry Robinson is well aware of that. I for one wish him luck.

Yours faithfully,

MRS P. ALDRED

54 Belmont Park, SE13

El

El</p

## BAe in plan to reshape Airbus

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRCRAFT and Daimler-Benz are re-launching their campaign to reorganise Airbus Industrie. They say the European planemakers consortium must become a limited company to regain the initiative in its global sales battle with Boeing of America and fund the development of the A3XX, a super-jumbo.

Reforms by President Jacques Chirac for Aérospatiale, the French state planemaker that owns 37.9 per cent of Airbus and assembles most of the airliner range could open the door to a breakthrough, they believe.

Jürgen Schrempp, chairman of Daimler-Benz, said: "The businesses are in agreement; the politicians are in agreement: the question is only in which way and with what kind of speed. Our opinion is that it should be done as soon as possible."

Dick Evans, BAe's chief executive, is expected to confirm the new urgency for an overhaul that would free Airbus to buy components from the cheapest suppliers able to meet quality requirements when he unveils BAe's profits for 1995 later today.

Industry sources say the moves are necessary to enable Airbus, 20 per cent owned by BAe, to match Boeing's vigorous cost-cutting drive. It is also seen as a prelude to launching an Airbus super-jumbo that would destroy Boeing's 747 monopoly. According to a senior European industry executive, Boeing makes \$30 million on each 747, and uses half to cross-subsidise sales of smaller planes.

A growing rapprochement between Daimler-Benz and BAe is expected to open the door to deeper cooperation and even joint ventures. BAe and Daimler co-operate on developing and building the Eurofighter combat plane, but the Germans are apparently keen to establish deeper commercial ties.



Sir Keith Stuart, chairman of Associated British Ports, which is set to continue its high level of capital investment during this year and 1997

## ABP investment to continue as profits increase by 10%

By CARL MORTISHED

HIGH levels of capital investment are set to continue at Associated British Ports, which yesterday announced a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £88.4 million in 1995.

ABP invested £77 million in its business last year of which £61 million related to improvements to the ports. The total spend was 30 per cent up on 1994 and Sir Keith Stuart, the chairman, expects investment in the ports to rise slightly in 1996 and continue at the same level for the following year.

The dividend is up 18.2 per cent for the year at 6.5p, but the entire increase came in the interim payout and the final dividend is pegged at 3.5p. Dividend cover fell from three to 2.7 times. Sir Keith said he was happy with a dividend cover rate fluctuating between two and three times. "Part of the decision must be the level of capital expenditure," he said, indicating that current high levels limited the ability to reduce cover.

Total cargo tonnage passing through the ports grew by 4 per cent to 114.5 million tonnes with good increases in vehicle exports, containers and roll-on/roll-off traffic. However, timber imports had slowed due to the weak construction markets. Sir Keith said that in spite of the slowing in the world economy he expected further growth.

Port activities contributed £102 million compared with £92 million in 1994, including £26.8 million (£23.9 million) of

port-related rental income. Grimsby and Immingham had record throughputs of 44 million tonnes boosted by a new Ro/Ro terminal built for the DFDS shipping line. However, weaker timber imports reduced trade at Hull.

ABP's ports in South Wales had a weak first half but the company is expecting a boost from expansion at British Steel's Port Talbot plant, where during 1996, ABP plans to deepen the tidal harbour to handle larger vessels.

Southampton Container Terminals, ABP's joint venture with P&O, achieved a 16 per cent rise in container throughput to 683,000 units. Sir Keith said container traffic was up 20 per cent in the current period and more capacity was being built with the aim of bringing the throughput capability up to 1 million units.

The company did not take any business from the Port of Liverpool during the six-week closure caused by the strike at Mersey Docks, said Sir Keith. "Our Southampton container terminal was already operating at full capacity," he said.

Non-port property income rose 12 per cent to £13.8 million in 1995 owing to the reduction in rent-free periods. Grosvenor Square Properties sold an office building at St Martin's Lane, central London, for £15 million and reinvested £9 million in another office building in Milton Keynes, yielding 10 per cent. Sir Keith said the company's presence in Europe. The United Kingdom currently contributes more than 40 per cent of the group's turnover and profits.

## Sema shares leap on full-year £38m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES in Sema, the Anglo-French computer services group, jumped 25p to 584p yesterday after the company announced full-year profits of £38 million. An increase of 18 per cent.

The company, which is gearing up to provide the IT infrastructure for the European Football Championships in June, said that its order books have risen a further 33 per cent suggesting further improvement in 1996. Sema provides

software and systems support to large clients such as TSB, the French Army and Électricité de France. Turnover rose 13.7 per cent to £678 million, while the dividend, which is payable on July 1, rises by 22 per cent to 5p.

The company reported a particularly strong performance from its telecoms division, which specialises in anti-fraud technology, turnover increasing by 16 per cent to £60.6 million. Turnover in the outsourcing division also increased significantly to £222 million, a rise of 29 per

cent. Last month it signed its largest outsourcing contract to date, with Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong. The group has also extended its position in the specialist data disaster recovery market in the last few weeks by taking control of CAP-RS and Datashield Ltd.

The company said that the acquisition in November of TS FM in France would expand the company's presence in Europe. The United Kingdom currently contributes more than 40 per cent of the group's turnover and profits.

Tempus, page 28

## Left on the cutting-room floor

Anthony Carey looks at what is still missing from annual company reports to shareholders

Committed to integrity, independence and freedom from bias, with a formidable reputation built up by supplying relevant, reliable and timely information for more than a century. I am not referring at the Institutes of Chartered Accountants which co-sponsor the Annual Awards for Published Accounts along with the Stock Exchange. The accolade instead goes to Reuters, the winner of the larger company award for 1995.

Everyone with an interest in financial reporting can learn much from Reuters. Its world-class reputation, with customers in 149 countries, has been achieved by actively addressing users' needs through a strong commitment to innovation and to communicating information in the most effective way possible. These qualities are as much in evidence in the company's annual report as in their general approach to business.

The Reuters report opens with a concise summary of financial highlights. Information is then provided on its three core areas – information, transaction and media products – including discussion of customers, competitors and outlook. A biographical section on directors and executive committee members outlines positions held within and outside the



Anthony Carey cites Reuters as the example to follow

guidance on the operating and financial review.

Much work remains to be undertaken, however, on matters dealt with outside the audited financial statements.

To enable annual reports to satisfy the needs of shareholders and other stakeholders, better disclosure and more guidance are called for on the likes of environmental issues, human resources, reporting of risk and non-financial measures of performance.

On corporate governance,

ments, the degree of segmental analysis varies markedly between companies, as does the quality of information in the notes on financial instruments, depreciation rates, pensions and directors' remuneration.

Reuters' matrix analysis of revenue in each of its three principal product areas by region provided valuable information that would not have been available if it had separately analysed revenue by product and geographical region. Full disclosure of the value of directors' share options and of the fair value of financial instruments are also worthy of mention.

Sir Brian Carsberg, secretary-general of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), expressed slight disappointment in his speech at the awards ceremony that no mention is made generally by global companies such as Reuters of International Accounting Standards (IAS) in annual reports. The standing of IASC has risen sharply recently, and hopefully a number of leading UK companies, particularly those with an international profile, will provide a reconciliation from UK GAAP to IAS in their reports. If their counterparts from other countries did the same, it would enable users to compare global companies using a common benchmark.

Anthony Carey is secretary of the technical committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Steve Pipe, stood out because accountancy was not usually associated with excellence in customer care.

### Dial-a-disc

Ernst & Young is giving away CD-Roms. The disc is called EY-Passport and is packed with international business and tax information. Call Karen O'Sullivan on 0171-431 4494.

ROBERT BRUCE

## The measure of our success

TRIPLEX-LLOYD may have a problem. It has won, for the second time, the annual award for the best report and accounts from a smaller company, and is getting worried about how you define "smaller". The rules say anything under £50 million of balance sheet assets, but the latest Triplex-Lloyd results show that it has broken that

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

barrier. Will it be denied the chance of a hat-trick? Perhaps not. The judges say they are "likely to put up a proposal to change the method of measurement".

### Name dropping

When Ernst & Young produced its first onslaught on the Accounting Standards

Board's "statement of principles" in 1994, its arguments were cut down to size by one of the most influential of academics. "When a UK institution does show leadership it should be applauded for it, not condemned," thundered David Solomons in one of the last articles he wrote before his death. And what was Solomons' title? Ernst & Young

said Steepens & Co, the Hertfordshire firm founded by

ROBERT BRUCE

## Clearly, the message is getting through

THIS week it is back to basics. A set of accounts, put together painstakingly by those with the accounting skills at a company and given the independent imprimatur by an outside team of auditors, is the root of it all. It is easy to forget this. Both accountancy firms and finance directors have tended to play it all down. Not terribly sexy, accounts. Indeed, they are not. But they are the fundamentals.

Last week saw the presentation of the annual awards for the best examples. These are sponsored by the Stock Exchange and the three chartered accountancy institutes. As Anthony Carey says in his article on this page today, it is quality of information that counts. And the quality, whatever Ernst & Young may be saying about Sir David Tweedie and all the Accounting Standards Board's reforms, is steadily improving.

For years I was a judge at the annual awards for reporting to employees. It was a difficult task. There was a thin line that divided patronising simplicity of the sort which had dancing cartoon coins jumping into the cash register drawers from graphs which dealt with accounting concepts about which the average telephonist would have no idea. Now reports, like the winning entry from Reuters, are clear and informative enough to double up as reports for staff, shareholders and analysts. It is the quality of information which has improved by leaps and bounds. The Reuters report in particular is packed with the sort of simple graphics which get across an extraordinary amount of information in a tiny amount of space. Accountants always used to be terrible at this.

They spoke and wrote in lumps of indigestible jargon connected only by technical non-sequiturs. Now, as a result of every accountant's familiarity with the skills of information technology, they can express what has happened in graphics. And at last people are beginning to understand.

This is why the Ernst & Young attack on the ASB for producing stuff which is scarcely comprehensible by most accountants and other business people may be wide of the mark. Once upon a time it might have been true. But the growth in general financial understanding has changed that. It is one of the ASB's greatest changes.

The key to the ASB's belief in such a development is that it is not a prescribed



ROBERT BRUCE

the World Wide Web. In future, the same would happen with the annual report and accounts. "Our large US shareholders would receive the information instantaneously," he said.

As for the policing of the growing areas of information which do not come directly into the auditors' remit, the newly published Auditors' Code should take care of that.

The eighth commandment reads: "Auditors allow their reports to be included in documents containing other information only if they consider that the additional information is not in conflict with the matters covered by their report and they have no cause to believe it to be misleading." That too is fundamental.

# In the fight against disease, this could be the most powerful weapon yet.



**It's not magic. But it may yet work miracles.**

This is the trademark of a completely different kind of pharmaceutical venture.

The recently-merged Pharmacia & Upjohn.

It's a partnership that has created a company of quite remarkable depth and scope: over 30,000 people working in 50 countries and serving 200 million people around the world.

And it's for those 200 million people that this announcement should come as very good news.

Because the merger will give two pools of specialised medical talent the opportunity to work together for the first time ever.

Resulting in real, tangible benefits in the fight

against cancer, AIDS, infectious diseases and many other medical conditions.

This merger is not simply a matter of shared resources, however.

It is also about shared ideals.

Our trademark stands as a symbol for humanity, hope and inspiration.

Values that we intend to apply to every single aspect of the way we do business.

You are surprised to hear such sentiments coming from a global pharmaceutical company?

This is not the last time  
we'll be surprising you.

You can be sure of that.



**Pharmacia  
& Upjohn**



# Shares close at best of the day

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

# Shares close at best of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Category	Stock	Price	High	Low	Change	Yield	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
BANKS	Bankers Trust	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Bankers Trust	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Bankers Trust	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Bankers Trust	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Bankers Trust	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
BREWERS, BEERS & RESTAURANTS	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
CAPIALIZED INDUSTRIAL	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
ENGINEERING VEHICLES	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
FOODMANUFACTURERS	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
FOODSERVICE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
FOODSTUFFS	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
FOOTWEAR	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
FRUIT	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
GENE	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein	100	100	99	-1	2.5	15.0
	Heublein</td						

Jeremy Laurance reports that NHS hospitals are making the most of the million-pound profits they receive from the private sector

**N**ew life has been breathed into the private health business, and it shows. A plethora of schemes, special offers and cut-price deals appears to have restored the health of an industry that looked to be ailing a few years ago. In 1994, the number of people covered by private medical insurance rose by 4 per cent to 6.6 million. That was the first year in which there had been significant growth since the start of the recession in 1990, and early results from 1995 suggest the growth has been sustained.

William Laing, of the private health consultants Laing and Buisson, believes the market looks set for further expansion throughout the rest of the 1990s to reach nine million people covered by the end of the decade as the effects of the recession fade and the employment market recovers. However, some of the major insurers are less optimistic, predicting a no-growth future.

## Private care set for expansion

Private hospitals have benefited from the growth with an 8 per cent rise in income in 1994 to more than £1.2 billion. However, many are struggling with low occupancy rates as lengths of stay fall and more procedures are carried out on a day-surgery basis.

The boost that private hospitals were expecting from the introduction of the NHS market in 1991 has never materialised. Health authorities and GPs have not used their freedom to contract with private providers to any great extent. Less than £1 in every £20 earned by private hospitals comes from the NHS.

Although the much-vaunted private finance initiative scored its first big success with the announcement of a £50 million scheme at St James's Hospital, Leeds, earlier this year, there is unlikely to be any major shift towards private companies providing NHS core services this side of the general election.

However, while the private sector has failed to win a share of the NHS market, the NHS is grabbing a rapidly growing share of the private care market. Pay-beds have become an important and growing source of income for some NHS hospitals.

The NHS is estimated to have taken 16 per cent of the acute private healthcare market last year, almost 50 per cent up on its share in 1988.

The Fitzhugh Directory, edited by private care consultant William Fitzhugh, predicts that the NHS will have 20 per cent of the market by 1997. It is already the third largest private provider after Bupa hospitals and the French-owned group which includes BML.

The private hospitals view this expansion with wariness tinged with resentment. They believe the scales are unfairly balanced in the NHS's favour in terms of costs of servicing capital, the advantages of scale and the presence of consultants on site. As a result, their profit margins are higher.

NHS pay-beds earn £20 million profit, enough to pay for 20,000 routine operations, according to a report commissioned by Norwich Union Healthcare. The "profit", which is ploughed back into

the NHS, averages £290 a patient and takes account of hidden costs such as the training of doctors and nurses.

The report, *Are Pay-Beds Profitable?* by National Economic Research Associates, the economic consultants, was based on a survey of six private units in NHS hospitals which together represented 10 per cent of private provision in the NHS. It found the average revenue per private patient was £1,710, excluding fees paid to the consultant.

Norwich Union is poised to benefit from the boom in NHS pay-beds, which remain competitively priced. It offers a scheme limiting treatment to NHS private units, which attracts savings of up to 30 per cent compared with schemes offering treatment in private hospitals.

The top ten NHS earners all generated revenue of more than £2 million, with the London hospitals Guy's, St Thomas' and the Royal Free earning more than £3 million each. The unspoken fear among private providers is just how far the NHS will penetrate the market. Could it become the dominant force?

Labour's policy on private practice remains unclear. There is no mention of phasing out NHS pay-beds in its latest health policy document.



Private healthcare is big business for private clinics, and for NHS pay-beds too

**"You're not sure  
your health  
insurance  
will pay my bill,  
are you?"**

Until now, buying a cheaper private hospital has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primecare, a new policy from Prime Health, namely gives you comprehensive cover - at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Primecare gives you all this. For more details, call 0800 77 98 55 or fill in the coupon.

**Prime Health**  
A member of the Standard Life Group

Call Prime Health on 0800 77 98 55 or fill in the coupon.

First name \_\_\_\_\_  
Please use block capitals  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Please (inc. STD code) Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth of the oldest person requiring cover \_\_\_\_\_  
Cover required: Single  Married  Family  Single parent family   
If you already have private medical insurance  
please state renewal date \_\_\_\_\_  
Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited,  
FREEPOST, SE 5042 Stockport, Greater Manchester SK2 8YL

## Battle to win more customers

Who will be the victor in the Health Wars ahead?  
Ruth Corb analyses a competitive insurance market

The most significant development within private medical insurance (PMI) for some time has probably been the announcement this month by PPP Healthcare, the sector's second largest operator, to change its status from provider to limited company.

Peter Owen, PPP Healthcare's group chief executive, said: "This enables us to raise equity finance. We can compete better with those who have deeper pockets."

Bupa, the biggest operator and a provider since 1947, responded quickly that it had no similar plans. Peter Jacobs, Bupa's chief executive, believes it has "the capital reserves needed to meet its future business strategy".

The present overall value of premium income in this market is thought to be about £1.65 billion, with 3.4 million subscribers and 6.4 million lives covered. The growth prospects look good, but are closely linked to political policies and economic outlook.

One way forward is for PMI to be more affordable for a larger number of people. Traditionally, it has appealed to higher-income, middle-aged people. Much of that business has come through company-paid insurance. The industry must find ways to allow those employees to be able to afford PMI when they retire.

Julian Stainton, chief executive of Western Provident As-

sociation (the third largest operator), says: "PMI should not be beyond the reach of ordinary people. There are ways to cut the costs. For instance, we are seeing a resurgence of interest in products such as hospital cash schemes under which a policyholder receives a specified benefit should he or she be admitted to either an NHS or private hospital."

At the same time there has been an expansion in the range of products offered. The marketing of services such as health-check screenings, quick access to outpatient treatment and free information helplines are growing. What is more, such products could be regarded as preventative medicine and in future help to reduce the frequency of claims. The latter

are a long-term worry, as are the expense of highly sophisticated medical technology, and the complexity and intricacy of treatments available.

Although this may appear a licence to print money, William Laing, the consultant, says that profit margins from PMI are "relatively small". The influx by banks, building societies and insurance companies into this market in the late 1980s was more to add another facility to their packages of financial services, than to make handsome profits. It is generally thought that subscription income of £50 million to £100 million a year is needed to make it worthwhile, given the costs of establishing a comprehensive in-house claims administration. (In a number of cases this is han-

The latest recruit to the health insurance scene is Legal and General Healthcare. Launched at the beginning of February with a £10-million investment, the company is about to liven up the market by offering PMI, a cash plan and life insurance combined in a composite policy at competitive premiums. Duncan Hopper, managing director of Legal and General Healthcare, says: "Our aim is to provide health insurance to a younger and wider audience. The demand is there."

The marketplace is highly competitive, with more than 30 insurers vying for business. William Laing believes it will continue to be dominated by the half a dozen or so insurers capable of dealing with all aspects of PMI, including managed care. Or, as Peter Owen puts it: "It is the healthcare specialists who will come out tops in the Health Wars ahead."

**Immediate access  
to treatment, plus  
instant cover  
and quotes**

Join PPP healthcare  
from around  
£10 a month



**FIRST MONTH FREE**

Call now for a free brochure  
more details on how  
you can join PPP healthcare

**0800 33 55 55**

Or write to:  
PPP Healthcare  
1000 London Road  
Stockport SK2 8YL

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. inc. STD code  
Daytime \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

McMrs/Mrs/Ms  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Targeting treatment and value for money

**David Loshak**  
explains how  
managed care  
helps to cut costs

**I** cost control is the bugbear of the NHS, it is no less crucial for the private sector. Not only do major advances in science, medicine, surgery and technology create increasing patient expectations and demand for services, but the population is ageing.

The number and size of claims rise in consequence, inevitably sending up premiums. The danger is that, unchecked, they could become unaffordable, and some companies are indeed considering whether or not to continue medical insurance as a company-paid benefit. For the private sector — insurers, hospitals and subscribers alike — cost containment is clearly imperative.

That has helped to bring the concept of managed care to the fore. "This is not just another way of trimming back private healthcare," says PPP Healthcare's group director Jonathan Russell. "It seeks to maximise the quality of the benefits available under health schemes at the best possible price."

Managed care entails assessing treatment efficacy and cost effectiveness when healthcare starts to be given rather than when it is completed. A hip operation, for instance, would be authorised only when all non-invasive techniques had been tried or ruled out, and when the disability had reached a certain degree.

By influencing costs before and during treatment, managed care "shifts responsibility for some of the decision-making involved during treatment to the payer, and with that shift comes perceived responsibility for treatment outcome," says Peter Owen, PPP's chief executive.

Managed care can control costs by ensuring that services are provided only when necessary and delivered efficiently in the appropriate setting. It moves the cost-benefit assessment of treatment to the point in the process where it can influence clinical decisions and help restrict costs.

It may be operated by corporate employers themselves, third party administrators or insurers. Among the many provident and not-for-profit insurers now offering managed care are such leading concerns as Bupa, Western Provident Association, Norwich Union and Cigna Employee Benefits.

The essence of successful managed care is that it encourages insurers, clients and care providers to share information on costs and to control them at every step, while still ensuring that necessary treatment is given.

Insurers pay limit claims by excluding the most expensive

hospitals from the choice open to subscribers, by requiring advanced approval of treatment from the insurer so that cheaper options can be considered, or by restricting patients to a list of approved specialists.

A common feature of managed care programmes is that members must notify their intention to claim before starting any treatment. This pre-authorisation of claims enables the insurer to target cost management opportunities in advance.

Typically, subscribers due to receive hospital or long-term care are monitored according to treatment guidelines. Each claim can be assessed against protocols agreed between the insurer and medical specialists. If the proposed treatment seems likely to exceed the insurer's norms, the clinicians are asked to justify this medically. The insurer can thus influence the cost of treatment without affecting the specialist's paramount duty to act in the patients' best interests.

But managed care can be only part of the answer to spiralling costs. Another key element must be maintaining health in the workplace. The CBI calculates that absence from work because of illness costs £13 billion a year.

Managers increasingly recognise that much of this is preventable and that once someone gets to work, his or her health problems can be theirs too. Many companies therefore design their job specifications and training to alleviate stress — estimated to account for 80 million work days lost annually. Most restrict smoking and drinking, many now provide healthier food in staff canteens and some encourage exercise sessions at work, all of which help to prevent heart disease — a further 35 million lost working days. Proper seating can prevent the development of back pain — another 3.5 million days.

However, most British health at work legislation does not oblige employers to carry out specified procedures. Occupational health provision is therefore still on a relatively small scale compared with other major EU countries. Although keeping employees fit reduces absenteeism and is highly cost-effective, thousands of British companies still lack any formal occupational health arrangements.



Health screening: staff fitness checks reduce company sickness

## Dilemma of an age-old problem

**David Loshak** reports on the difficulties of finding residential care for the elderly

**T**he £40 million American-style retirement village planned near the Essex coast, with its own shops, restaurants, pool, golf course and medical facilities, may prove a retirement paradise, but the sad fact is that providing places for the nation's elderly who need residential or nursing home care is becoming an acute problem.

Although 70,000 more places will be needed by 2000 to keep pace with demographic pressures, according to healthcare consultants Laing and Buisson, the annual increase in the number of places in private nursing homes is only 9,000 to 10,000.

The days when income support fuelled much of the rapid growth in the volume of home care demand have gone. The demand, however, remains. Indeed, with the closure of NHS places it has accelerated. Yet, the Department of Health anticipates a 40 per cent reduction in NHS hospital beds over the next four to five years, leading the Commons Social Security Committee to lament that "health authorities tell us in all seriousness that long-term nursing care is not a function of health services".

From April this year, anyone with assets (including their home) of at least £10,000 will be expected to pay towards the costs of any long-term care they need. The savings threshold that cuts off all state help towards the costs of long-term care will rise from £8,000 to £16,000, and the benefits payable under long-term care insurance will be tax-exempt.

But as a survey by the consumer research company Mintel has shown, only a tenth of adults believe in the need for such insurance. It therefore seems likely, despite the Chancellor's changes, that more elderly people will be forced to sell their homes to finance their care.

Magdy Hanak, chief executive of

CrestaCare, which runs 51 nursing homes with 3,000 beds, is one of many in the field of long-term care who argue that pensioners who have been thrifty for a lifetime should not have to pay anything for their long-term nursing and residential care in old age.

On the other hand, the soaring total cost of long-term provision is becoming an unacceptable burden on taxpayers — more than £2 billion this year compared to £10 million in 1979.

Most of the nation's 550 nursing and residential care places are still in homes run on traditional owner-management lines, but rising financial barriers to entering this market mean that the small business sector now accounts for proportionately fewer newly registered beds than a decade ago. Major for-profit providers have rapidly increased their share of the

nursing home market to nearly a third — some 180,000 beds. Alongside private and NHS provision, there are the religious bodies, charitable foundations and housing associations which make up the voluntary non-profit sector, which accounts for some 67,000 places. The largest, Anchor Housing Association, with more than 2,600 registered beds, runs more registered residential and nursing home places than any of the for-profit chains except for Takare, Westminster Health Care and CrestaCare.

Although many new homes have first-rate facilities and high standards of care, there are some which are below par, and full information can be hard to obtain.

Charities such as Age Concern and Help the Aged publish guides on the kind of homes available, their costs and any financial help there may be, and Bupa's Care Finder nursing home advisory service gives similar assistance to both members and non-members in Hampshire and Sussex.

## Pick the right policy to suit your pocket

But watch for health exclusion clauses and restrictions, advises Judith Oliver

**C**ompetition in the UK market for private medical insurance (PMI) is growing at breakneck speed. No longer do Bupa, PPP Healthcare and Western Provident Association have the field all to themselves. Now they compete with more than 50 other insurers for the attention of Britain's 6.6 million PMI customers.

Cheaper schemes might satisfy a wide range of customers but they mean more exclusion clauses and restrictions to insurance cover. PMI purchasers should take great care to ensure they understand the cover they are buying, says Peter Dally, managing director of Prime Health, a subsidiary of Standard Life.

A recent survey conducted for Prime Health by Gallup revealed that more than half of the 2,500 interviewees expected a policy to cover outpatient treatment, consultations and tests. But the majority of those taking out cheaper schemes would be disappointed with their cover.

Amersham-based medical adviser Dr Penny O'Neill says would-be PMI purchasers should always find out what is not covered by a scheme before they commit themselves.

"It's vital to ensure there are no limits on the critical elements of the plan, particularly outpatients' benefits," she says. "Some scans alone cost £550 so you may have gone over your limit before you even reach a diagnosis."

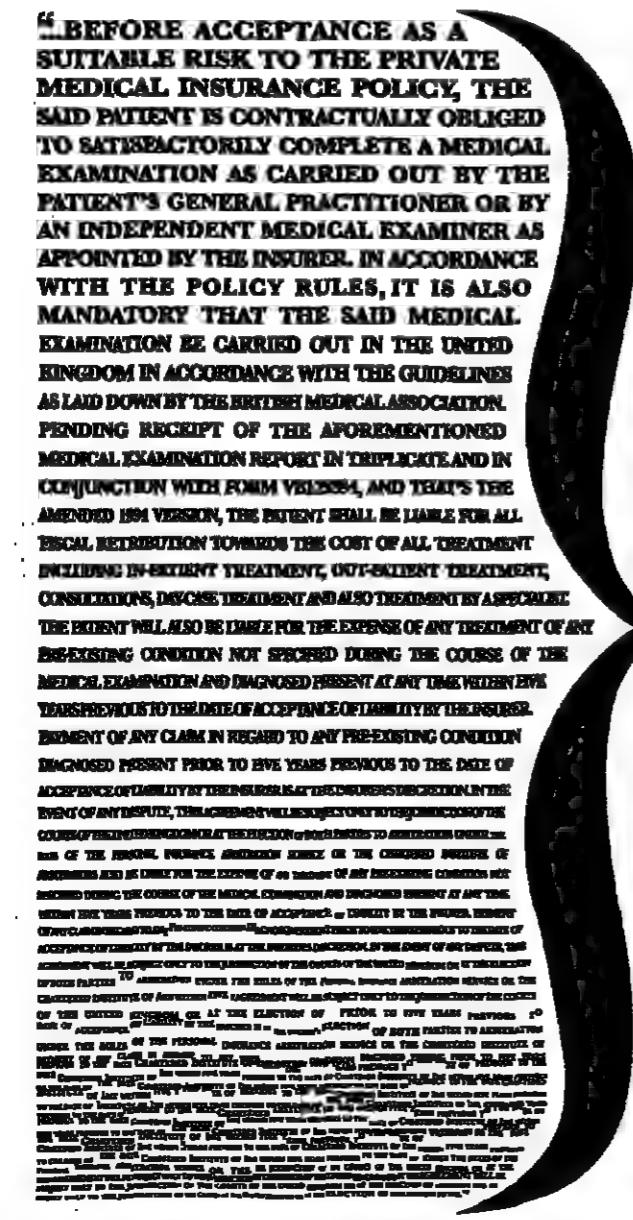
BupaCare, the most comprehensive product offered by Bupa, Britain's leading PMI provider, contains exclusions which are fairly typical among standard PMI schemes. BupaCare excludes claims for treatment of any existing disease, illness, or injury, pregnancy and childbirth, mental and addictive conditions during the first two years of membership. It also excludes cosmetic treatment, routine health checks and routine dental treatment, treatment for AIDS or HIV-related conditions which originate during the first five years of membership, co-alescence and contraception, assisted reproduction, sterilisation, sexual dysfunction or termination of pregnancy.

BupaCare (including one patient consultation, inpatient and day-care hospital cover) for a family of four costs £452.08.

**A**lternatives or additions to PMI plans are growing. Major medical expenses insurance pays out a cash lump sum if the policyholder has to undergo surgery. Permanent health insurance replaces income if the policyholder is off work for a long time and critical illness insurance pays out a lump sum on diagnosis of specific illnesses such as a stroke.

Britain's largest cash plan provider, Hospital Saving Association, will pay out for 19 different conditions including maternity, dental treatment and chiropody.

Cash plans are popular, but would seldom be enough to pay for private medical care.



**"NO,  
YOU DON'T NEED  
A MEDICAL"  
WHEN IT COMES TO BUPA,  
WE TALK SENSE.**

### HSA SuperPlan



**The family  
health care plan that  
pays you tax-free**

**CASH**

**to spend as you wish  
yet can cost only 83p a day.**

**For full details without any obligation**

**CALL FREE - NOW 0800 150 150**

For more details about HSA SuperPlan, please complete legibly in BLOCK CAPITALS and post to:

HSA Healthcare, Hambleden House, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 1LQ.

I am under 70 years of age. Married/Single\* (Please delete)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Home Address

Tel No. (incl. STD Code)

Now, with HSA SuperPlan, you can get tax-free cash — paid directly to you — to help you care for your family's health. For only 83p a day you can receive the sums shown here.

But you could also choose to pay as little as 21p or as much as £1.60 a day and receive cash payouts that are proportionately smaller or larger.

HSA covers you, your spouse and all resident children for all the health care needs listed. So don't delay. Find out more about Europe's leading health care cash plan today.

● One payment covers all the family

● No increase with age

**Just some of the  
big cash payouts you  
could receive**

£108

£108

£400

£280

£400

£252

Plus cash for worldwide emergency cover and 12 other health care needs

**Direct**

**SUPERPLAN**

HSA Healthcare, Hambleden House, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 1LQ.

FOR STRAIGHT TALKING PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE	
PLEASE RETURN COUPON TO: NORWICH UNION HEALTHCARE LTD, CHILWORTH HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE CORPORATE PARK, TEMPLARS WAY, EASTLIGH, HAMPSHIRE, SO50 5RY.	
NAME	ADDRESS
TELEPHONE	DATE OF BIRTH
If you would prefer to see one of our Sales Advisers, please tick the box <input type="checkbox"/> Data that you provide may be used by NU Group Companies, your insurance intermediary or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes such as market research and contacting you regarding your future insurance needs.	
UNION HEALTHCARE OR ALTERNATIVELY FILL IN AND SEND	
PLEASE CALL FREE ON 0800 424 242	

**NORWICH  
UNION**

No one protects more.  
INSURANCE, INVESTMENTS, HEALTHCARE, PENSIONS  
RVI MO2

JP/10/95





## FILM 1

Kathryn Bigelow's *Strange Days* deals in futuristic fiction of a gratuitously violent nature



## FILM 2

A cliché-ridden British soccer movie, *When Saturday Comes*, generates more yawn than yarn



## FILM 3

The twist in *French Twist* proves to be a lesbian angle in an otherwise innocuous farce



## FILM 4

... while the Spanish thriller, *La Madre Muerta*, offers black humour and gothic atmosphere

CINEMA: Geoff Brown on *Strange Days*, Kathryn Bigelow's unpleasant vision of the year 2000

# The sick Squid we're owed?

**J**et the woman some medical attention, says the Los Angeles police chief as year 2000 is ushered in racial violence, seething vds, and enough bedlam to fit the earphones.

It's what about stretches the audiences? *Strange Days* is designed to leave you tered, your senses overed. There is no respite for eyes: the winding and subjective camera constantly thrusts us into rapes, slaries and other urban events. No sun shines upon frenzied city lit by technolite. No quiet interrupts soundtrack bombardment its dialogue and a musical of rock, gypsy snatches, gospel choirs and Rossini. Is not the film to make happy for the future of cinema or the world, or does the film give greater to cheer over the rising sense of its director, Kathryn Bigelow, whose last movie that thrill-a-minute folly, *Die Hard*. True, she can the boys at their own exercising muscle and bending Hollywood techni to her own use, though the script by, or her James Cameron, de of the *Terminator*, obviously helped here, can point as well to *Die Hard's* characters, a chauffeur of an armoured limousine, who to the rescue of Lenny, Ralph Fiennes's whimsy bag of a hero, a cop in black, marten down, baby, this is *Die Hard*, she cries, marten vehicle at tornado d. One empowered art, however, hardly is up for the wanton it played by Juliette Lewis, the demeuring behav at LA's favourite haunt, the French nightclub "Langley", footage that now gives to another womand and morder.

is event is captured on by an illicit piece of ology called *Squid reconducting* (*Quantum Device*), which ds directly from the brain replay the experience as light replay a CD. "This is V, this is life," we are told, light from the cerebral x.

James's seed character in such things originally loped for police use only, though even he squirms

**S**trange Days Plaza, 18, 145 mins Uncomfortable vision of LA four years hence

**When Saturday Comes**

Odeon West End 15, 106 mins Dated and soporific British drama

**French Twist**

Warner West End 18, 107 mins Saucy French farce with a lesbian dressing

**La Madre Muerta**

MGM Freestyle 18, 107 mins Murky perversity from Spain

when he finds himself partici pating in a murderous assault.

As a spectacle, *Strange Days* is frequently amazing. Bigelow's subjective camera hurls you right into a city bubbling over with racial tactics, cars on fire, looting, robberies and mayhem galore. This is not the film to calm any fears in the wake of the Rodney King beatings or the trial of O.J. Simpson.

Nor are the characters much help in maintaining order. Moral rectitude is nowhere; least of all in Fiennes's hero, a stubborn-chinned doh who blunders through the story pointlessly trying to rekindle his affair with Lewis and tipping up over gangsters' goats, crooked cops, even his own shadow.

We can also take little comfort in the film's status as futuristic fiction. The millennium is only a few years away, and the kind of thrill that the Squid device offers — pure, untrammelled, mind-blowing sensation — is here already. Hollywood manufactures it daily. *Strange Days* just gives the product a context and pushes it to new and worrying extremes.

After rushing forward in time for *Strange Days*, *When Saturday Comes* plunges us backwards over 30 years to the days when every British film-maker worth his salt travelled north to glory in smokestacks, slag heaps and working-class troubles. In the opening seconds we gaze over an industrial landscape. Furnaces squat on the horizon. A kid kicks a ball in the street. Realism.

however, is never an issue this humble film, directed by Maria Giese, the American wife of James Daly, a Hollywood producer who started out as a factory worker in Sheffield, deals entirely in fragrant clichés.

The hero (Sam Bean) works in a brewery, but longs for a career in professional football. His chance comes when he is offered a trial with Sheffield United. But the old working-class demons arrive to haunt him: drink, family violence, a pregnant girlfriend. Can our old pull himself together and make something of his life? Do we care?

If it were left solely to Giese's pedestrian script and direction, no, we would not. Bean, Emily Lloyd (the girl) and Pete Postlethwaite (the embittered father) blow some dust off the dialogue and endow the film with a little more spirit than it deserves. But even they cannot prevent the yawns numbing from audiences' mouths.

Isabelle Balasko's *French Twist* brings a twist of its own to the honourable traditions of French farce. The wife, husband and lover are all in place; but this time the lover is a stocky, butch lesbian who breezes into the wife's life and leaves the husband, an accomplished philanderer, quivering. It is a silly trifle, but the saucy tone and popular cast have made the film a local hit under the title of *Gazon Maudit*, a slang term whose various meanings include female genitalia.

**B** Alaska best known abroad for her role as Gérard Depardieu's dumpy mistress in *Trop belle pour toi*, writes, directs and co-stars. She initially cuts an appealing figure as the lesbian who experiences car trouble, outside Victoria Abril's lawn, marches inside, mends her sink, and stays. Abril, dressed in girly splendour, is also pleasing. Then the plot machinery drags them both under and leaves some of the pleasure in seeing a lesbian relationship presented without leers or digs in the ribs.

The triangle's third member, Alain Chabat, pursues a nice line in macho disbelief, although the film's broad strokes affect him too. When he falls from his motorbike, he lands straight into a pigsty. Still, maybe crude slapstick is



Juliette Lewis and Ralph Fiennes in the depressing but well-filmed *Strange Days*

a price worth paying for a film that wears a sunny smile and delight in love of all shades.

There is nothing delightful about the love on display in the Spanish film *La Madre Muerta*. Ismael, a criminal, is haunted by the eyes of a child who saw him murder her mother. When next encountered, the child is a mute, mentally retarded teenager.

Ismael still sees her as a threat, kidnaps her, plans to kill her, fails, and chains her to a bed. It is a murky tale, piled high with an unpalatable mixture of religious symbols, blood, chocolate and urine.

The director is Justina Bajo Ulloa, 26 years old when the film was completed in 1993. He has talent, no doubt; you can sell from the brazen use of

the wide screen, the crisp black humour and gothic atmosphere. But the impenetrability of the characters' behaviour casts a pall, as does the unpleasant violence at the beginning and end. Karla Elejalde displays a chilling presence as the murderer locked in a massive Oedipal complex; but the film is finally too perverse for its own good.

## No limits to enterprise in these editions

Jim McCue welcomes the daring shown by a touring exhibition of privately printed American books

**L**overs of limited editions are grateful to the Rocker Press for launching a series of Fine Press Bookairs, held near Oxford. The most recent of these whisked out more than 40 British printers, ranging from presses established for decades — such as the Rampant Lions, whose folio edition of T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* will be published next month — to elusive amateurs such as Benjamin Fender and Oliver Lewis, who began producing their immaculate reprints of 18th-century pamphlets while at school at Winchester College.

Meanwhile, the Rocketmen, Jonathan and David Stephenson, have opened a permanent West End showcase for private presses at 13, Old Burlington Street. Now their successful exhibition *Printer & Artist*, highlighting the work of 19 American presses, most of which have never exhibited in Britain before, is in Bath.

Almost all of the books are illustrated or decorated, whether with Matisse-ish screenprints, as in *Multitude of One* (Grenfell Press), or by "computer-generated landscapes" held in perspex boards (from *Occasional Works of California* — where else?). Many prints are also available separately.

Three artists stand apart: Barry Moser, Leonard Baskin and Gaylord Schanilec. Moser's broody wood- engravings have illustrated de luxe editions of *Huckleberry Finn*, *Frankenstein* and *Alice*, where they are given maximum impact by beautifully disposed type. But these volumes require a lectern. More satisfying — and less imposing — is Moser's little Alphabet book. Here Yvette Rudledge's gothic letterforms, each printed in a different colour, introduce the emblems: "g" for gauntlet, "m" for misericord. Initials and engravings appear on alternate openings: turn from "C for cat" into the fanged jaws of a tiger. "H for hogwash" in turn — a grinning Ronald Reagan (£395, Pennyroyal Press, Massachusetts).

The versatile Leonard Forstner & Craft is at Sir Chapel Royal Contemporary Art, off Queen Square, Bath, until March 9. Oak Knoll Books is at 414 Delaware St, New Castle, Delaware 19720 (001 322 7232).

## How what we say is opened to question

**RADIO: The foibles of language are a matter for Word of Mouth**

way we use and abuse it. But for Mrs Davies's stricture, is that it makes us think about the language, something we spend too little time doing. And not just about words but about accents, too. There was a nice studio enactment this week of two women talking one white from London, the other black from London.

The interesting part was that it was the white woman who used West Indian argot and the black one who spoke like a traditional Eastender, because those were the respective environments in which she was brought up. They perfectly illustrated that racial stereotyping is in the ears as well as the eyes.

Dear me, Mrs Davies, I seem to have written at length about *Word of Mouth* after all. There are two reasons: one is that Radio 4 confirmed to me this week that *Word of Mouth* will be returning in the same lunchtime slot in August, so infuriated readers will be able to pen it in.

The other is by way of proving that this column may infuriate readers, but it would not dream of poking fun at them. I quote from Mrs Davies: "Why don't you write about programmes I never miss, such as *Word of Mouth*?" I remain, madam, your obedient servant.

**SNAP VERDICT**

Every week on Moviewatch young film fans discuss new releases. Today's panel comes from South Wales...

**WHEN SATURDAY COMES**

Alex Thomas, 20: Beer, football, lads leering at women in the pub: I can relate to that. Catherine Lewis, 21: Booze, books and male-bonding. No tension, and you knew exactly what was going to happen. If you had drunk 14 cans of lager you could still get the plot.

Sam Morgan, 22: The best bits were the pub scenes: the blokes telling dirty jokes.

Natalie Faulkner, 20: It was predictable but you could still enjoy it. Emily Lloyd was still the best but Sean Bean made it.

**LA MADRE MUERTA**

Catherine: A really gothic edge-of-the-seat thriller.

Sam: It did go on too long, but it was great. You were sicked

into it. The characters were really nasty, evil psychos, but you still liked them.

Natalie: A fantastic, heavy film; really different from your run-of-the-mill psycho movies.

Alex: I found it too disturbing.

The evil goes on and on.

**STRANGE DAYS**

Natalie: An amazing film. So much happening at once.

Alex: At the start I was a bit bored, but then it took off: I was on the edge of my seat.

Sam: The setting, New Year's Eve 1999, was brilliant, and the music was great.

Catherine: It was fast and frenetic but I didn't feel drawn into it. All the ideas about virtual reality and stolen dreams were too technical.

**4 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS**

**AWESOME... A BLEAK AND BEAUTIFUL FILM**

"A neon-soaked masterpiece"

TIME OUT

NICOLAS CAGE

ELISABETH SHUE

INELIZ

GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER NICOLAS CAGE BEST ACTOR

LEAVING LAS VEGAS A MIKE FIGGIS FILM

AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE NOW

### INTERNATIONAL FORUM

PRESENTS  
ROBERT MCKEE'S  
STORY STRUCTURE

OR SCREENWRITERS & TV WRITERS • PRODUCERS & DIRECTORS • PLAYWRIGHTS • NOVELISTS & DEVELOPERS • EXECUTIVES • STORY ANALYSTS • LIBRARY AGENTS • EDITORS

in its 30th U.K. edition

LONDON March 23-25 1996

Venue: Scientific Lecture Theatre WI

INTELLECTUALLY PASSIONATE • CREATIVELY INSPIRING

by leading screenwriters, playwrights, novelists, critics, editors and agents from around the world

For further information please contact

JOAN HARRISON • INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Tel 01732 810 925 Fax 01732 810 622

The Octagon, Heriot, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0QQ, UK

PETER BARNARD



*La Madre Muerta*: a gothic, edge-of-the-seat thriller, and very different from the average psycho movie





## THEATRE 1

Not quite a complete Coward: Peter Bowles opens in a new staging of *Present Laughter*



## THEATRE 2

With Phillip Schofield in the dreamcoat, *Joseph* comes bouncing back, as larky as ever



## THEATRE 3

Another classic film spoil? The Crucible's *La Dolce Vita* is but a sad echo of Fellini



## OPERA

Covent Garden continues to fine-tune its controversial *Twilight of the Gods*

THEATRE: Missing the point of the Master's alter-ego; over the top again with the Bible; a flashy farrago of Fellini

# Hungry for ham and ego

Present Laughter  
Aldwych

**N**eil Coward created the character of the actor Garry Essendine, played it when *Present Laughter* was first staged in 1942, and later confessed that, yes, it was essentially a portrait of himself. And when Peter Bowles is patrolling his exotic cream-and-gold pad in a silk dressing-gown, exuding debonair charm and svelte charisma, you can certainly believe it. He is Coward, plus a tiny black moustache, plus a certain steely aloofness, plus an odd, interesting melancholy somewhere inside.

But Coward was never quite Coward, nor was Garry quite Garry. Can you imagine the fastidious Master spending 18 months playing the title-role in a period piece called *The Lost Cavalier*? Garry is variously described in *Present Laughter* as flamboyant, overbearing, posuring, glittering, a show-off. God, and someone who cannot help overacting whether he is on the stage or off it. In short, he has more in common with Judith Bliss, the egomaniac actress who is at the centre of *Hay Fever*, than with the shrewd, kindly man I recall treating a tumbledown press corps with scrupulous politeness when I was a young hack in Manchester back in the 1960s.

It is the part of Coward which is not Garry that Bowles fails to catch at the Aldwych, and unfortunately it is rather a large part. Whenever he is required to be cool, incisive and a bit formidable, he scores strongly. Whenever he is asked to be a self-obsessed, self-glorifying thespian, he becomes forced and awkward.

This means that lines which should vault hammy and hilariously across the footlights — "Mr Essendine spends his whole life understanding absolutely everything, and the strain of it is driving him step by step to a suicide's grave" — do not take off at all.

Nor does Richard Olivier's revival achieve lift-off itself. Everywhere Garry faces pressures, mostly of his own making, that can and should be highly comic. Visitor after visitor comes to embarrass, pester or berate him: the starry-eyed girl he has seduced; the appallingly earnest young playwright he has been too vain to turn away; the sexy siren who is married to one of his best friends and having an affair with the other; the two men themselves, both bawling with indignation. All this happens on the evening before he leaves for a longish tour of Africa.

But the supporting cast is pretty uneven in quality and, worse, works too hard to amuse us. For instance, wouldn't it be more real and therefore funnier if David Arnell gave us the young playwright Coward actually created, with his insecurity and "gruff defiance", rather than a goofy eccentric



From left: Peter Bowles as Garry Essendine, Deborah Grant (Liz Essendine) and David Arnell (Roland Maule)

who capers about like a chimp on speed? Olivier's production could certainly be more subtly observant. When he injects bits of broadish business into the action he gives the impression of mistrusting the play.

But since I recall making much the same point when Tom Conti revived it in 1993, perhaps the play is no longer trustworthy? I refuse to believe so.

*Present Laughter* has its serious side, touching as it does on such subjects as

the cost of charm to the charmer and of fame to the celebrity, and it has its mischievous one. Garry is, or should be, part of the line of attractive Coward monsters that began with the Bliss family and the wayward protagonists of *Private Lives*, continued through the bohemian trio in *Design for Living*, and ended with Elvira, the pottergeist in *Blithe Spirit*.

They are all selfish, erratic, a bit childlike, unreliable, difficult, even

maddening; but equally they are all stylish, witty and fun. Their fellow-characters find it impossible to live with them and hard to live without them. And in the theatre they are, or can be, terrific company. But it will, I fear, take a better production of *Present Laughter* than this to prove that Garry Essendine merits top billing in that jester's pantheon.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



## Ring newly polished

OPERA

Götterdämmerung  
Covent Garden

THOSE who don't respond to Richard Jones's anarchic production of *The Ring* will probably remain unconverted by Tuesday's revival of the final, most intractable segment — intractable because we haven't quite caught up with Wagner's prophetic timescale yet, still being stuck somewhere in the middle of the second act. But those who do respond will be fascinated by Jones's adjustments to the staging since it was new four months ago. Brünnhilde's Immolation, in particular, has been completely re-thought: it is simpler, clearer and slightly more encouraging in that it seems to suggest that we re-run the action following Brünnhilde's awakening and try to make a better job of it this time.

There will doubtless be further adjustments here and in the other three operas, which increases impatience for the first complete cycles in the autumn. That will be the time to start to come to terms with — or reject — Jones's vision. As it is, few could fail to respond to the sheer horror of the society he presents to us, the decadence of the Gibichung rulers, the violence of their soldiery, the drugs, the drink, the brutalisation of women. Impatience for the autumn is mingled with a certain dread.

Meanwhile, the musical

performance goes from strength to strength. Bernard Haitink cut five minutes or more off the running time of the first act, which put the caring staff in a tizzy and increased dramatic impetus without sacrificing a jot of the musical expressiveness or serious beauty of sound that characterises his Wagner.

Cast changes brought their own shifts of emphasis. Donald Maxwell was less of a prat than his predecessor as Gunther, altogether more formidable a figure. The new Siegfried, Wolfgang Fassler, has a bright, slightly unyielding tone and stamina. Although nervous at first, he started to sing beautifully in the last act and weathered a minor accident heroically. He embodies Jones's Jack-the-ladish view of the character with a certain charm. Kurt Rydl (Hagen) was in far more

RODNEY MILNES

SINFONIA 21's programmes always show enterprise. Its current season at Smith Square is no exception, with four premieres included alongside imaginatively chosen works both old and new — and, in collaboration with *The Times*, audience response is being monitored through questionnaires.

The programming seems to be based on the principle of sweetening the pill, mixing contemporary pieces with well-loved music. But on Tuesday, the best-known work was also the least interesting: Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*. It received a rhapsodic performance from just 13 players, a small enough ensemble to remind one of its domestic origins. Martyn Brabbins, the conductor, kept the music from wallowing, but was unable to disguise the fact that it takes a long time to say rather little.

Much more beguiling was Berg's arrangement of the Johann Strauss waltz *Wie*.

BBC PO/Tortelier

NEW MUSIC  
Signs of things to come  
Sinfonia 21  
St John's

Woman and Song. The scoring for string quartet, piano and harmonium, reflects that it too was designed for domestic performance, and the six Sinfonia members relished its intimacy while dispatching it with Viennese verve.

The Canadian soprano Valdine Anderson was striking in *Sequenza III*. Berio's concise one-woman show of coloratura singing, coughs,

sobs, laughter and onomatopoeic sounds. Her strong, silvery tone was heard to good effect in *Song Offerings* by Jonathan Harvey. This 1985 score takes four Rabindranath Tagore poems, although the lush settings do not always help the words to come across. Harvey's music captures the spirituality and sensuality of the lines, but is not always engaging, sounding at times like Herbert Howells via short-wave radio.

In its first British performance, Kargel's *Phantasiestück* proved a rich, exciting piece. It is scored for flute and piano, with a separate layer of music for an accompanying ensemble that can be omitted. At St John's the ensemble was placed in the gallery, providing musical and acoustic contrasts to the sparkling, witty dialogue the pianist Julian Roltan and flautist Anthony Robb were engaged in at the front.

JOHN ALLISON

## Not beyond redemption

HAVING given the first performance of her monumental *Charlottes* two or three years ago, the BBC Philharmonic knows that Judith Bingham thinks big and that she also thinks mystic. But the sheer size and expressive ambition of her latest orchestral work, *Beyond Redemption*, must have exceeded even this orchestra's expectations.

Certainly, *Beyond Redemption* is a challenging score. It is demanding in the number and variety of instruments it requires, in the time needed for its preparation, and in faith it requires in the quality of its inspiration.

On its first performance — by the BBC PO under its principal conductor Van Pascual Tortelier in Manchester (and on Radio 3) earlier this month — *Beyond Redemption*

BBC PO/Tortelier  
Free Trade Hall

was a challenge to the audience, too. The problem lies not so much in its language, which has much in common with that of Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony*, but in its construction.

All in one movement and not far short of half an hour long, it recedes further and further from comprehension as episode succeeds episode and impressions accumulate without falling into any kind of detectable shape. *Charlottes* is more realistically constructed and much more successful in that respect.

Recourse to the composer's programme note on the new work, which sets the scene in

Bram Stoker's *Carpinthian Mountains* and which invokes Marian prophecies of the Second World War and visions of aggression beyond redemption, is of little help. With every new horror story, the returns from stamping rhythms and from orchestral writing at the strident extremes — the brass is particularly prominent, both on and off the stage — inevitably diminish.

It would be difficult to know where to begin in revising *Beyond Redemption* but there is so much in it that is spontaneous in expression, individual in conception and dramatic in sound that it would surely be worth revising it by recasting it in some other form.

GERALD LARNER

THE TIMES  
Take a friend to a concert for 30p



*The Times* offers you the chance to take a friend to a concert for only 30p — the price of your favourite daily newspaper.

There are over 160 concerts to choose from at 52 venues where you can enjoy a wide variety of music and musicians like violinist, Midori (right) who is playing Mozart with the LSO at the Barbican on Sunday, March 10.

Simply collect four of our six tokens and attach them to the application form below.

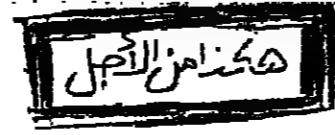
HOW TO BOOK  
Choose a concert from the previously published listing, and telephone the venue to reserve your tickets quoting *The Times* offer. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for just 30p. Your tickets cannot be issued without tokens. Please do not call the concert halls before Thursday, February 29. The offer is limited to one 30p performance per household, though you may get a 30p ticket for more concerts at venues marked \* if you book them at the same time. The tokens are valid only for the performances stated in the offer and cannot be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with any other offer. All tickets are subject to availability. Check with the booking office for the time your chosen concert starts.

30p CONCERTS APPLICATION FORM  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Day Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

This application form with four differently numbered tokens attached entitles the bearer to one 30p ticket when another is purchased at the price quoted in *The Times* offer for the same concert. Only one 30p ticket per application unless otherwise stated in the offer.

\* The tokens are valid only for the performances stated in the offer and cannot be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with any other offer. All tickets are subject to availability. Check with the booking office for the time your chosen concert starts.

30p CONCERT TOKEN 5



16/5/96  
20/5/96



## Absent minded memory

MEMOIR, it would seem, is the genre of the moment: impressionistic autobiographical recollections, once the province of the aged and the famous, now flow from the pens of the young and the very young. The requisite for such accounts is all too often a difficult childhood, usually combined with an intimate knowledge of alcoholism or depression.

With his gentle book *Speak Sunlight*, Alan Jolis, a novelist who has reached the august age of 43, bucks the trend. The title's Nabokovian echo is not wholly misleading: like *Speak, Memory*, this is a nostalgic reflection upon a privileged past, in which a pre-pubescent polyglot is exposed to delights many will not know in a lifetime: Jolis, however, has a distinct purpose: his book is largely a hymn to the Spanish housekeeper, Maruja, who raised him, and to her butler husband, Manolo.

Although born in the United States, Jolis spent his childhood in Paris, the youngest son of affluent — but not, it would seem, contented — parents. The little boy summered in Franco's Spain, in the care



Jolis: a love song in which the lover remains invisible

Claire Messud

SPEAK SUNLIGHT  
By Alan Jolis  
Hamish Hamilton, £15

of Maruja and Manolo, and in the company of a host of Spanish cousins. Jolis père et mère are all but invisible in this account, as are Alan's brothers: the boy's experiences in Spain from the Galician barnyards of Maruja's family to the elegance of Jolis's uncles' homes in Madrid, were those of an orphan.

Maruja, herself, childless, doted on little Alan. — or Alfonso, as Jolis names his character in the book — and Jolis captures some charming

details about their unconditional bond. To his childhood self, however, Maruja's most notable characteristic was her obesity. The book opens by informing us that "Her pudgy cheeks, double chin, have no age", and Jolis returns relentlessly throughout to her puffing plumpness and her straining buttons. Even her feet are fat. This excess goes hand in hand with an exuberant temperament: her husband Manolo, meanwhile, is scrawny, taciturn and hen-pecked.

Jolis captures these basic outlines, but both Maruja and Manolo ultimately remain stereotypes of Mediterranean peasantry. Unknowable in their private lives is Jolis the child, they continue to be so in

his adult reconstruction: while the little boy in no way pampered his housekeeper (and, indeed, was rite when his aunts did so), he was also never able to penetrate beyond her role as a servant. Jolly, fussy, proud, Maruja as Jolis conjures her lacks the complexity that, in life, she must surely have had. And yet she emerges more clearly than her husband, of whom one can only say with certainty that his character was weak and his sense of humour low.

Jolis cheerfully concedes that his young Spanish cousins — all of them girls — were indistinguishable to him: "I can tell them apart, but just barely." When he was twelve, they provided his first moments of sexual awakening, but they did so apparently without revealing a single personality trait. Even the young Jolis himself, alias Alfonso, remains murky and uniformed, a shadow of a self.

*SPEAK Sunlight* is a memoir without characters, a love song in which the beloved and the lover remain invisible. Jolis does, however, successfully convey his passion for Spanish landscapes, and the book contains vivid set pieces about trailling through tapas bars, flamenco dancing and running with the bulls in Pamplona. It is a shame that Jolis's recollections, so evidently suffused with love, do not translate better onto the page. One would hate to think that only horrible childhoods make good books.

## Drama and detection

Bruce Boucher

GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE  
Metal Sculpture of the Roman Baroque.  
By Jennifer Montagu  
Yale, £40



Moses, now attributed to Jacob Cobaeert (c 1600) from the church of S. Luigi dei Francesi in Rome

AT THE conclusion of his biography of Owen Glendower in 1931, J. E. Lloyd acclaimed him as "the father of modern Welsh Nationalism". Little more about Glyn Dwr's life has subsequently been discovered but the revolution in historical method over the past 50 years has enabled Professor Rees Davies to present the Welsh Revolt, and hence the figure of Glyn Dwr, himself, in a new light.

As his own researches have made clear, Wales in the 14th century was a colonial society. Its land was divided into great lordships held by the Crown and the English aristocracy, normally absentees, whose monopoly of economic, military and judicial power enabled them to enslave the native population and transfer vast sums to England for their personal consumption.

Not merely were the Welsh peasantry and squires reduced to poverty but their status as *untermenschen* was enforced by exclusion from English law, English land, and all but very local offices. Wales, as Davies vividly defines it, was two societies, not merely economically and le-

gally but geographically, linguistically and culturally. The Wales of English castles, boroughs and settlement in the southern lowlands had little contact with, or knowledge of, the Welsh Wales of the upland centre and north. Indeed, by turning their backs on each other they had managed to live at peace for over a century after Edward I's conquest. And then, on September 16, 1400, Glyn Dwr's revolt came, as Davies says, "like a bolt from the blue".

Why is not entirely clear. It was certainly not a peasant rising against lords, like that of 1381 in England or the *Jacquerie* in France. It was started by Glyn Dwr's family and friends, who proclaimed

Rome may be the Baroque city *par excellence*, but for every visitor who marvels at Bernini's *St Teresa* or the great *Baldacchino* there are tens of thousands who only gawk at the Sistine Chapel or the temples of the Forum. Swirling drapery and religious ardour still strike a chilly note with most tourists, and even those well disposed towards Baroque art rarely look beyond the great tombs and marble statuary.

Jennifer Montagu's *Gold, Silver and Bronze* draws our attention away from the major to the minor Roman masters of the early 17th century, from marble to metalwork and the decorative arts. Above all, her book deals with what could be called the *insecurities* of art, with the space between an artist's initial idea and its completion — in some cases, amplification — by other craftsmen.

This is familiar ground from the author's earlier studies of Algardi and the industrial nature of the Roman Baroque, but her exclusive focus on metalwork recalls the recall on metalwork recalls the importance of an art form once esteemed as the equal of fresco-painting or marble carving but now marginalised in most surveys of Renaissance and later art. Not all Baroque art was large-scale, and great attention was lavished on silver mirror frames, gold chalices and baptismal fonts smothered in lapis lazuli, rare marbles and gilt bronze.

Unfortunately, our appreciation of these objects is diminished by their general disappearance after 1796, when French occupying forces held the Papacy to ransom: their demand for silver led to the literal liquidation of the Church's assets. But enough still remains to gauge what has been lost, and as a dedicated sleuth, Jennifer Montagu has assembled fascinating documentation on silver plates, golden medals and bronze reliquaries.

In fact, some sculptures illustrated here — four seated prophets from an elaborate tabernacle in the church of

thrown new light on their careers and motivation. A few responded to Owain's call from the start, but many who held local office like Henry Don at Kidwelly and Maredudd ab Owain at Abergwynd joined only when the tide of Welsh success swept them along.

As it spread, the revolt gained its own impetus and meaning. In attempting to analyse and explain that meaning Rees Davies draws on native insights and a deep familiarity with Welsh literature and oral tradition. He stresses the intensely localised character of the revolt, its dependence on family ties and loyalties, its objectives conceived as much in terms of prophecy as military strategy, and its momentum sustained by the legends of bards and minstrels. Guerrilla warfare could quickly loosen the English hold outside the fortresses, but ultimately the Welsh lacked the manpower, technology and supplies to reduce

Peter Ackroyd on a poetic partnership of pride and prejudice

## Inspiration from a bitter muse

In the newly published *Concordance to T. S. Eliot's plays and poems* (edited by J. L. Dawson, P. D. Holland and D. J. McKitterick, Faber, £55), there are three references to Jews — two of them contemptuous. There are more allusions in his prose, both published and unpublished: so there can be little doubt that he was deeply and, for a time, bitterly anti-Semitic. In fact Anthony Julius, in his intriguing critical study *T. S. Eliot: Anti-Semitism and Literary Form*, Cambridge University Press, £30, makes a coherent case for Eliot as the greatest anti-Semitic poet of the 20th century. Anti-Semitism was, as puts it, "Eliot's muse".

Of course he was a man of his time, when Jewish caricatures were being paraded in dumb shows through the various forms of journalism and cheap fiction. Yet, in Julius's account, Eliot did not borrow lazily or complacently from the prejudices of the period: he renovated them, refined them, and polished them into the glittering material of his art.

His own temperament must play a part here, if his biographers are to be trusted, and it seems that he possessed a threatened and unsettled personality which, in the cant terms of a more recent period, might be labelled "paranoid". He attacked whatever intimidated him, and his assault upon Jews (perhaps also upon the blacks of the pornographic *King Bolt and His Great Black Queen*) is matched only by what Julius describes as his "struggle with women" and "the feminine-chaotic principle". Eliot's "jews" — he characteristically used the lower case — are "free-thinking", watery, protean, while the poet himself tried to remain tight, immobile and unfractured.

The poetry emerges fully armed from that somewhat anxious temperament; it is in a proper sense the constrained expression of Eliot's bewildered sensibility, with its dissonant fragments and allusions held together by an act of formal poetic will. That is why there is no way in which we can dissociate Eliot's works of genius from his offensive private feelings. As Julian remarks in this convincing account, his anti-Semitism was "positively empowering".

Yet it is also important to examine Eliot's wider cultural assumptions and affiliations. That is why Julius goes on to suggest that his anti-Semitism was international in its scope; his prejudice conflated American chauvinism with English populism and French intellectualism.

It is no accident that, as a young man, he should have been much taken by the proto-fascism of Charles Maurras's *Action-Française*. But the connections go much deeper. In 1913 Maurras was known to be "classique, catholique, monarchique", and in turn Eliot soon

came to espouse the hard-edged "classicism" of poets such as T. E. Hulme and Ezra Pound.

The entry of Pound into this sad history suggests yet another connection between poetry and prejudice. There is a possibility, for example, that anti-Semitism and literary modernism worked in partnership. Could there have been a symbiotic relationship, as a result of which modernism brought inhumanity into the realm of art?

The originality of Julius's book lies in its willingness to raise such questions, and one important chapter, "The aesthetics of ugliness", makes a crucial point: we do not need Dante or Eliot to

union. He is primarily concerned with Eliot's social ideology, specifically as an unacknowledged spokesman for the "mandarin" class of intellectuals and servants of the State.

There are times when his conclusions resemble those of Julius, particularly when he writes of Eliot's distaste for "an institutional order contaminated by liberal-humanist ideas", but he is more generally interested in the poet as "the public moralist, the drily aggressive contrarian", the contented social climber and, above all, the successful London editor and publisher.

There was, indeed, a sea change, the 1920s and 1930s. Eliot became a respected "modern" poet, as elusive as he was difficult: by the end of the 1930s he was a "celebrity" whose somewhat vague and inconsistent pronouncements were treated with considerable respect.

In fact, Cooper suggests that Eliot planned his career with as much care and patience as he formulated the drafts of his later poetry. Certainly it would be true to say that he had already successfully established the academic establishment, with a series of startling critical theories which seemed to elucidate his own poetry, and as a publisher he was also able to create the literary climate in which his own work could most usefully be placed. His role at Faber and Faber enabled him to popularise the exponents of modernism and to form the careers of such "second generation" poets as W. H. Auden.

It is in this context that Cooper places *Four Quartets*, arguably the poem which did most to secure Eliot's public reputation. In an interesting if on occasions over-deterministic reading, he presents it as a work which reconstructs, or reinvents, a moral sensibility for a post-war world marked by nihilism or disillusion.

It is a poem of private belief and public submissiveness, promoting a form of willed internal exile or alienation: the public and private worlds are separated by Eliot so that, according to Cooper, the servant of the State can act in one while retaining his integrity in the other. Culture, therefore, is a form of defacement. Poetry, as Auden once wrote, "makes nothing happen". This might be called the patrician attitude towards literature, translated more popularly as "don't rock the boat".

It is instructive to find two critical books that investigate Eliot's public role in so provocative and convincing a manner. It is too early to say whether such attention will eventually diminish or enlarge Eliot's poetic reputation, but Julius and Cooper have managed to throw a suggestive light upon a writer who has for too long been understood — and accepted — upon his own terms. There is only one mention in the *Concordance of "repentance".*

John Xiros Cooper picks up the narrative, in *T. S. Eliot and the Ideology of the Four Quartets* (Cambridge University Press, £35). Julius has directed his attention to the earlier poems, such as *Gerontion* and *The Waste Land*, while Cooper considers such later works as *Four Quartets* and *The Family Re-*

mind us that a great poet can "make art out of the sufferings of others", but in Eliot we also have the spectacle of a poet whose prejudices were inflexible, elaborate and pernicious. This is a refreshing analysis of recent cultural history, informed by a rare indignation and power of synthesis. It is all the more chilling, then, that he should eventually characterise Eliot as a "man without pity".

Of course, in subsequent years he displayed plenty of a more orthodox or public kind, which is the point where

John Xiros Cooper picks up the narrative, in *T. S. Eliot and the Ideology of the Four Quartets* (Cambridge University Press, £35). Julius has directed his attention to the earlier poems, such as *Gerontion* and *The Waste Land*, while Cooper considers such later works as *Four Quartets* and *The Family Re-*

founders like Giuseppe Gagliardi went bankrupt casting silver statues after complex instructions from Lisbon.

Eventually a whole chapel

and its liturgical kit was

ordered from Rome, the metal-

work alone rivalling the cost of

a small church. Fortunately it

survives, and its artistic

sources are skilfully unrav-

elled by Montagu. *Gold, Silver and Bronze* is not all

picaresque tales, but the au-

thor's extensive knowl-

edge of her subject is illuminating, her text well served by a hand-

some corpus of photographs,

all garnished with her custom-

ary dry wit.

San Luigi dei Francesi — were

recovered after a theft with the

author's help. Her fine eye is

particularly attuned to the

alterations necessary when an

artist's conception had to be

translated into a repoussé dish

or, as she would put it,

between the two dimensions of a drawing

and the two and one-half

dimensions of a silver relief.

The most enjoyable episodes

in the book come with the

author's elucidation of diplo-

matic negotiations and law-

suits surrounding metalwork

ordered for the fabulously

wealthy Portuguese king, John V.

Chicanery and dubious

intermediaries abounded as

the spiritual needs of a pious

court responded to the financial

straits of Benedict XIV. The papal curia was on to a good thing, but Roman

parliament, a national church,

two universities, and was to

extend into the border shires.

For a time, with backing from

the Peres, the Scots, and the

French, Glyn Dwr's Principality

acquired some credibility,

but as the English revenged

themselves, his allies fell away.

WHAT HAD it left behind? A

trail of destruction, and the

ruin of Glyn Dwr's family and

many others. But also the

weakening of English lord-

ship and the surrender of local

power to a new generation of

"high men" from whom

# England's game plan focuses on Townsend

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER England's game plan for the five nations' championship meeting with Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday, much of their focus will be directed towards Gregor Townsend. As his squad gathered in Richmond yesterday, Will Carling, the England captain, emphasised the influence the Northampton stand-off half will have on Scottish hopes of a grand slam.

"A lot of their game revolves around Townsend," Carling said. "He is not in the kicking mould of Craig Chalmers, he plays very flat and has made the team play in a different way. Ian Smith, on the open side flank, links with him and the others play off him very well."

The irony for Townsend, a centre with Northampton, will be opposed by his club colleague, Paul Grayson, who does wear the No 10 shirt at Northampton. Grayson and his partner, Matthew Dawson, have had a substantial input to the England preparations this week, which continued yesterday at the Bank of England ground in Roehampton.

Unusually for a Wednesday, England trained in private (allowing for the fact that a club match was in progress on an adjacent pitch), on the day details of their contracts with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) became public. Since those contracts include a clause by which players agree "not to indulge in any other professional sport or other sport, activity or practice that may endanger his fitness or ability to play international rugby", it was with some annoyance that RFU administrators heard of plans by some squad members to spend yesterday evening go-karting.

The contracts also include a code of conduct which leaves players liable to disciplinary hearings in the event of such diverse unauthorised activities as broadcasting or writing in a defamatory way of opponents or the RFU, the sale of match tickets or passes, or failing a drugs test.

"The contract is player friendly," Tony Haller, the

RFU secretary, said. "We are looking after them in many ways, including an attractive financial package. The players remain in constant touch with officials to ensure that changing circumstances are taken into account."

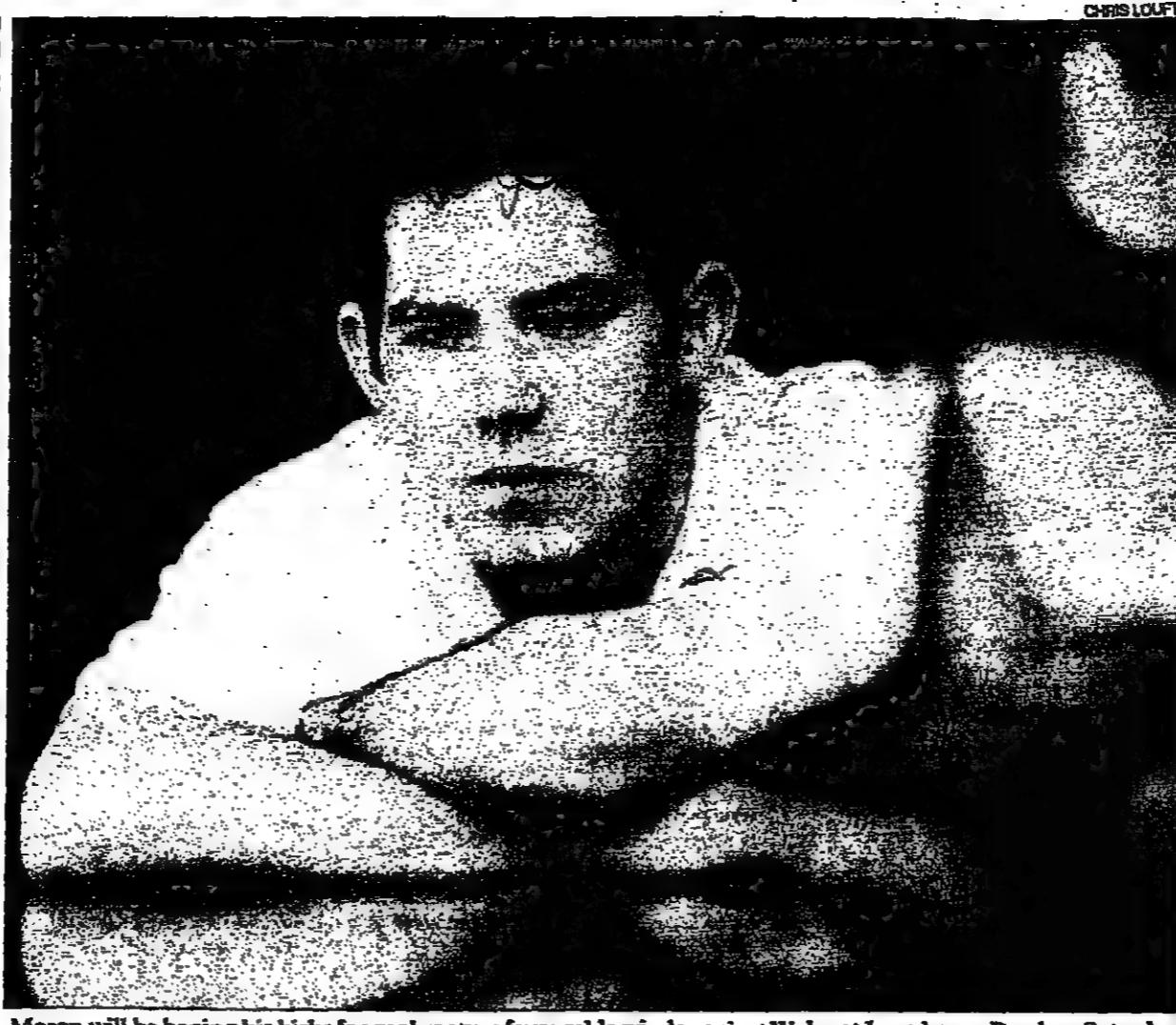
It is the commercial opportunities open to England squad players which will extend the tension between the RFU and the leading clubs, who seek primacy of contract between themselves and their players. Most clubs will not be able to offer comparable opportunities to those available to an international player, quite apart from the International Rugby Football Board regulation that gives national unions primary access to players.

This will not stop the leading clubs endeavouring to structure their own competitions, however, from which they may draw substantial financial benefit. Clubs are understood to be considering ways forward next season that could include European and Anglo-Welsh rugby at the expense of the existing Courage and Heineken leagues.

The Welsh first division clubs meet in Cardiff on Tuesday to debate the latest proposals, of which two options would mean the abolition of first division matches in Wales and England. Club administrators seek to remove the predictability of the present season in which a handful of clubs in Wales — Cardiff, Llanelli, Neath, Pontypridd and Swansea — and two in England, Bath and Leicester, tend to dominate.

Not that England's squad had money on their mind yesterday. Jack Rowell, the manager, described them as relaxed and looking forward to a match in which success offers at least the prospect of a triple crown season. "Our motivation comes from the group or it is not there at all," Rowell said. "People do ascribe amazing powers to the coach or manager. Our theme is to go to Scotland and enjoy the occasion. The Scots are clear favourites, going for famous things, and all credit to them."

There is a happy-go-lucky trait to his character that probably stems from a childhood spent in Dublin. "I'm from Merseyside, but my roots are over there," Mason said. "It was always the emerald green I cheered on against England. It was never a case of me ever thinking it might be an easier option to get a cap. It's everyone's dream to play for their country, and



Mason will be hoping his kicks for goal capture favourable winds against Wales at Lansdowne Road on Saturday

## Scouser aims to be toast of Ireland

Christopher Irvine meets a student who has graduated to international rugby

A Scouse accent, as opposed to a brogue, is the giveaway to Simon Mason's birth on the wrong side of the Irish Sea. Grandparents are the passport for the Orrell full back to the Ireland side, to which the home supporters will add honorary citizenship on Saturday, should his goal kicks catch the winds at Lansdowne Road, in Dublin, and sink Wales in the five nations' championship.

For the match against Scotland last month, he was a face in the Dublin crowd. With Jim Staples concussed in Ireland's subsequent defeat by France, Mason's fast track promotion via the Irish Students and Ireland A side this season to its debut at senior level could induce pressure, but there is more Irish to Mason, 22, than meets the eye.

There is a happy-go-lucky trait to his character that probably stems from a childhood spent in Dublin. "I'm from Merseyside, but my roots are over there," Mason said. "It was always the emerald green I cheered on against England. It was never a case of me ever thinking it might be an easier option to get a cap. It's everyone's dream to play for their country, and

mine is Ireland. "Jim's misfortune is my fortune, but he was the first person to congratulate me. His help has been invaluable. My only reservation is not to let myself or the side down, and I want to enjoy it. I know goalkicking is a big responsibility, but it's often in the lap of the Man Above to guide the ball home — I'm going hard."

Kieran, Ellwood, Campbell, Ward — the list of prodigious Irish kickers is long and illustrious. Not that Mason feels the weight of history. His place-kicking has been generally outstanding for Orrell, whom he joined from Newcastle last September, while the Lancashire side's new penchant for attack has released Mason from tactical shackles and helped to place him at the forefront of

the Irish selectors' minds. "At Orrell, we'll have a go from any part of the pitch, which has helped get me noticed. Before, I was too willing to use my feet instead of coming into the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

When news of his selection broke, Mason, a final-year student in building and surveying, thought it was Austin Healey, his Orrell team-mate, playing a joke. Mason, Healey, the England Under-21 scrum half, and Robbie Saverimutto, the Coventry and Ireland Under-21 scrum half, attend Leeds Metropolitan University, and have stuck together since school.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead, the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the trio were guided by Martin Regan, master in charge of rugby and the former Liverpool and England stand-off half. Mason was always the goalkicker. "I was the one who tried to grab the ball and kick it," he said. "When I was seven, I can remember the thrill of my first kick over the posts. Playing football helped. There's an art to it; you can kick or you can't." In a season for Old Anselmians, his school's affiliated club, and where his father, a lock forward was secretary, Mason doubled the previous points record. His haul of 469 points is unlikely to be bettered at the club where he still trains and which had its one player to attain international status as guest-of-honour at a dinner.

The green shirt will go up in the clubhouse," he said. "The ladies have always been there for me. They still wind me up at Old Anselmians Saturday nights if I don't get the beers in."

The crowd of Ireland will join in a toast if Mason can help to put Wales to flight. Staples should have recovered for the final match at Twickenham on March 16, but the young Anglo-Irishman can make a good case for the international place. The commitment has paid off.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

At St Anselm's, Birkenhead,









# On cliché safari with Crocodile Chalmers

**H**ang on — I'll be with you in a minute. Just wrestling with one of those fiendish teasers that travel programmes have taken to coming up with. What, that nice Judith Chalmers wants to know, is the capital of Poland?

It's Warsaw, which happens to be where John Carter spent his allotted seven minutes of *Wish You Were Here* (ITV) last night or b) Krakow, where he didn't go at all? Blown if I know, but we've got until Tuesday to find out. There is a £10,000 holiday of a lifetime at stake, so if somebody out there knows the answer I really would be extremely grateful.

Good, glad we have got that sorted out. It means we can get on with our central theme. Last night, was definitely, indisputably, categorically Africa night. Chalmers was in The Gambia, Robert Elms was in Ethiopia for Channel 4, as was — by one of those spooky

television coincidences — a film unit for the BBC2 series, *Under the Sun*. I now know quite a lot about Ethiopia. Go on, ask me what the capital is.

I already knew a little bit about The Gambia, partly through having been there (long, long ago in the days when its capital, Banjul, was still called Bathurst) and partly through having watched far too many documentaries about what British women of a certain age get up to with local males of a much younger age. A Chalmers-eye view of the "beach boy phenomenon" promised to be interesting.

In particular, I was hoping for one of her briskly delivered fact sheets — "a week's best and bawd with a three star, 25-year-old stars from £399 in low season, drinks, meals and impulsive presents excluded". But frisky fact sheet came there none. She may have been tempted by the well-muscled

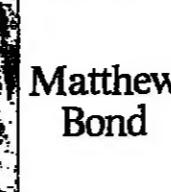
charms of the chaps playing beach Frisbee behind her — "it is easy just to flop out in the hotel grounds..." but she had her reputation as a senior travel writer to think of.

"Another thing to do," she continued brightly, "is go out and explore Africa." Which, with just a hint of a wistful backward glance, she did. Coming face to face with the Third World, she calls it.

**S**he went to the local market ("primitive and colourful"), she went on the £29 all-in *Roots* excursion to the ancestral home of Alex Haley and gamely she shook hands/claws with an improbably docile crocodile. As those famously tanned features posed for pictures with the unconscious croc, a ghastly thought presented itself. Which one would make the better handbag?

But at least Chalmers made The Gambia sound as if it might be

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

fun. Elms, by contrast, kicked *Travelog* (Channel 4) off with the sort of "I had a farm in Africa" melodrama that, but for my professional duties, would have had me scrabbling for the off-button.

"Desolation, desperation, despair," he droned drearily, "and following a biblical famine..." — no, don't tell me, let me guess, yup — "... death." He went on. "The words Ethiopia now evokes..."

All begin with D? Are likely to send you screaming to South Africa? ... are all potently tragic, yet Ethiopia was once the word for all Africa, the most glorified and learned land in an endless continent? Well, at least the alliteration had dried up.

Now, Elms often makes a decent travel guide. On Spain and things Spanish he is excellent and he is as good as the next cheeky-chappie at doing those what's-a-nice-you-like-me-doing-in-a-place-like-this pieces straight to camera. But get him home, lock him in a darkened room with pen and paper and ask him to write what he did on his holidays and he produces the most terrible, meaningless drivel.

No sooner had he left Addis Ababa (a capital, I suppose, always likely to encourage alteration) than he was at it again. "I loved Härar," (which inevitably was also home to the Hyena Men) "a shabby, scurilous, grimy and

groovy little city." That delivered. He was off in search of "myths and mysteries" which was definitely pushing his luck.

**W**hatever had unhinged Elms seemed to have happened in Lalibela, the increasingly well known site of 12 churches apparently hewn out of rock. From the moment he got there, still clutching the umbrella which he had rightly identified as Ethiopia's must-have for the season, he was "rocked back, plagued by questions of how and why".

Nowhere else he had been in the world, he told us, had prompted "the conflict and tumult of emotion" he was feeling here. "I have felt a wonderment and there is no other word than wonderment, that came from deep within." At that moment, I too felt something coming from deep within and it wasn't wonderment. I switched over just in time.

I found myself still in Ethiopia and still watching a man with an umbrella, en route to a spiritual experience. This was *The Pilgrim's Gift*, the last, in the enjoyable *Under the Sun* (BBC2) series.

Ali Ahmed, I was relieved to discover, was not going to Lalibela but was making his annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Sheikh Hussein, the man who had introduced Islam to the region some 700 hundred years ago and whose miracles still come highly regarded.

Ali and his middle wife, Hajo (thank goodness Elms wasn't around), provided good company on their journey through the spectacularly beautiful highlands. When this sprightly 70-year-old wasn't chewing the fat with his mates, he was teasing his toothless wife for lagging behind. "What can I do?" she shrugged philosophically. "He has the horse." Not to mention the umbrella.

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (13156)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (31707)  
8.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (Ceefax) (4418523) 9.20 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (6742982) 10.30 *Good Morning* (s) (81233) 12.00 *News (Ceefax, regional news and weather)* (6393339) 12.05pm *Turnabout* (s) (9844707) 12.30pm *Going for a Song* (s) (29875)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (34854)  
1.30 *Regional News and weather* (77797504)

1.40 *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (3475598) 2.00 *Peppa Pig* (s) (903342) 2.40 *The Flying Doctors* (Ceefax) (s) (4513417)

3.20 *The New Yogi Bear Show* (s) (2920728)

3.35 *The Morph Files* (s) (1763876)

3.45 *Dimbostables* (s) (7244349) 4.10 *Highlander* (Ceefax) (s) (8259633)

4.35 **CHOOSE The Web.** Virtual reality programme presented by Michaela Strachan (Ceefax) (s) (3117356)

5.00 *Newsround* (Ceefax) (4047959) 5.10 *Grange Hill* (Ceefax) (s) (101678)

5.35 *Neighbours* (f) (Ceefax) (s) (75492)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (146)

6.30 *Regional News magazines* (728)

7.00 *Top of the Pops* (Ceefax) (s) (2813)

7.30 *EastEnders*. Roy is faced with an uninvited guest at his party while Pat tells apart (Ceefax) (s) (610)

8.00 *Rescue Alien Empire*. *Barbs* (Ceefax) (s) (28233)

8.30 *The Detectives*. The dim-witted duo manage to murder the last remaining female Gargoyles who-hopped lurk on earth. With Jasper Carrott and Robert Powell (Ceefax) (s) (7398)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2897)

9.30 *French and Saunders*. With Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders (Ceefax) (s) (49632)

10.00 *Crimewatch UK*. Nick Ross and Jill Duggar team up with the police to try to solve crimes with viewers' help (Ceefax) (s) (140165)

11.50 *Question Time*. Topical debate from Norwich. Tonight's panellists consist of Dr Bridget Ogilvie of the Welcome Trust and MPs Ann Widdecombe, David Blunkett and Archy Kirkwood (Ceefax) (884879) N.I.: 10.50 *Spotlight* 11.20 *Question Time* 12.20am *Crimewatch UK* (Ceefax) 12.30pm *Film: A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* 2.45pm *Wales* (Wales) 10.50 *The Star* (845417) 11.20 *Crimewatch UK Update* (Ceefax) 12.30pm *Film: Jake Speed* (s) (287246) 2.10 *News and weather* (638739)

11.50 *Crimewatch UK Update* (Ceefax) (s) (177349)

12.00 *Film: Jake Speed* (1988) with Wayne Crawford and John Hurt. Dashing hero Jake Speed steps out of the pages of his partner's novels to offer his services when a young woman is abducted by a white-slave trader. Directed by Andrew Lane (Ceefax) (s) (250536)

1.40 *Weather* (251825)

2.00 *VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes*

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, the numbers which you enter into your Video recorder instead of most video. Tap in the Video PlusCode and the video recorder will automatically download details of *VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes* (s) (251825) 2.30pm *TV Times* (Ceefax) 2.45pm *Newsround* (Ceefax) 2.50pm *Turnabout* (s) (9844707) 2.55pm *Weather* (60894)

3.00 *The Midnight Hour* (s) (32333)

3.30pm-6.00pm *The Learning Zone*

6.00am *Open University: Materials* (2309581) 6.25 *Caring for Materials* (2385788) 6.50 *Maths Models and Methods* (5413542)

7.15 *See Hear News* (Ceefax) (202610)

7.30 *Stringray* (f) (Ceefax) (45900) 8.00 *Blue Peter* (f) (Teletext) (5230225) 8.25 *Tales of the Tooth Fairies* (4934200) 8.30 *Open a Door* (s) (803694) 8.40 *The Record* (s) (3592943)

9.05 *Daytime on Two: Science* (s) (5837079) 9.30 *Lermessex* (s) (875583) 9.45 *Over the Moon* (s) (5235568) 10.00 *Leopard* (s) (5867088) 10.25 *Storytime* (s) (8810436) 10.45 *Experimenter* (s) (755707) 11.15 *Space Ark* (592707) 11.30 *Living Memory* (s) (376287) 11.45 *Landmarks* (s) (592707) 12.15 *Clementine* (6045610) 12.30 *Working Lunch* (72471) 1.00 *Uisceach* (s) (8405078) 1.25 *Technology* (s) (5930417) 1.40 *Numberblocks* (s) (3475323)

2.00 *Tales of the Tooth Fairies* (f) (1035563) 2.05 *Open a Door* (f) (1034581) 2.10 *The Andrew Neil Show* (s) (5789000)

3.00 *News* (Ceefax) (2393165) 3.05 *Westminster* (Ceefax) (s) (1190765)

3.25 *News* (Ceefax) (5164523) 4.00 *Today's the Day* (s) (5221620) 4.15 *Teach* (s) (5931079)

4.30 *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (Ceefax) (s) (1263693)

4.45 *They Were There* (s) (722184)

5.00 *Star Speed* (f) (Ceefax) (s) (84050)

5.30 *First Sight*. Is Britain a safe haven for children seeking asylum? (252) N.I.: 7.30 *Now You're Talking* (293981) 7.55 *Our Raving Report* (644552) 8.00-8.30 *Personal Visions* (8675) WALES: 7.30 *Dad's Army EAST*: 7.30 *Water of Fact* MIDLANDS: 7.30 *Midlands Report NORTH*: 7.30 *North EAST*, *North WEST*: 7.30 *Cup North* SOUTH EAST: 7.30 *South East* SOUTH WEST: 7.30 *South West* CLOSE UP:

8.00 *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

8.30 *Top Gear* (Ceefax) (s) (8610)

9.00 *Shooting Blanks*. Male Infertility (Ceefax) (718897)

9.40 *The Male Survival Guide*. The last of the series looks at common sexual diseases (Ceefax) (563184)

9.50 *The Travel Show Essential Guide* (f) (s) (738707)

10.00 *Newsround* (Ceefax) (4047959)

10.30 *Top Gear* (Ceefax) (s) (8610)

11.00 *Shooting Blanks*. Male Infertility (Ceefax) (718897)

11.30 *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

12.00 *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

12.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.00pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

1.30pm *Three Colours Cézanne*. Cézanne's final masterpieces became a symbol for 20th-century art (Ceefax) (s) (6575)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996

CRICKET 46  
POLLOCK SWIFT TO  
FOLLOW IN HIS  
FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

JVC concerned at escalating costs

## Sponsor may pull plug on Arsenal deal

By RUSSELL KEMPSON AND PETER BALL

ARSENAL are in danger of losing their sponsorship deal with JVC, the electronics company. It is the longest-running such agreement in football, having lasted 13 years, but it is up for renewal at the end of this season. The Japanese company is reconsidering its position because of escalating costs.

However, JVC admitted yesterday that the adverse publicity attracted by the club over the past year could prove a factor in its final decision. Paul Merson, the midfield player, had to undergo rehabilitation for drink, drugs and gambling problems and George Graham was sacked as Arsenal manager 12 months ago after being found guilty by the Football Association of transfer irregularities.

"Negotiations are still continuing," Mike Whyman, the JVC publicity manager, said yesterday. "It is not true to say that we have made any decision yet. If we were to discontinue our relationship with Arsenal, then obviously matters have to be resolved quickly. That would give them time to talk to other people."

"Cost is the main criterion here. Marketing budgets do go up but not as fast as the media costs for us. Of course, there are other considerations, the Merson and Graham matters among them, but they are not major issues."

The Arsenal sponsorship is JVC's biggest in Britain and has rolled over in a series of

contracts — the initial one for a year, the subsequent four in three-year periods. The firm's parent company, based in Tokyo, is one of the leading financial backers of Euro '96, the European championship finals to be staged in England during the summer.

"Each time you renegotiate, the customer is going to ask for more money," Whyman said. "You have to take into account the positives and the negatives and, overall, we have been very pleased with

Tranmere Rovers yesterday jumped to the head of the queue of clubs hoping to sign Ian Rush when the Liverpool striker leaves Anfield at the end of the season. Tranmere, of the Endleigh Insurance League first division, is only few miles from Rush's home on The Wirral.

the partnership." Arsenal have received about £11 million from the company over the 13 years.

Since the formation of the FA Premier League in 1992, sponsors have been attracted in increasing numbers. The present television deal with BSkyB, BBC and overseas rights is worth £305 million over a five-year period. This season, each club will receive £878,725 from television fees.

Carling, the drinks firm, is investing £3 million per season over four years and there

Middlesbrough's involvement with South America increased yesterday when Branco, the Brazil full back, arrived on Teesside to join Juninho in the FA Carling Premiership. Branco will train today and hopes to make his debut for his new club against Everton on Saturday.

While a South American arrives, a South African departs. Mark Fish's move to Manchester United fell through, and the central defender has instead decided to join Lazio.

The Denmark international, Erik Bo Andersen, is expected to undergo a medical examination in Glasgow today before signing for Rangers. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, was in Denmark yesterday and is reported to have finalised a £1.2 million deal for the Aalborg striker.

## Tyson ignores fighting talk from Bruno



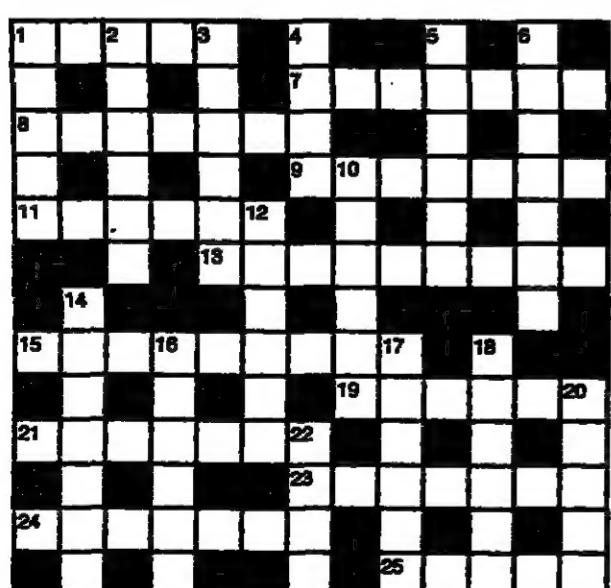
Frank Bruno, ignoring the lingering menace of Mike Tyson, yesterday served notice that he would not be a lamb to the slaughter when he defends his World Boxing Council heavyweight title next month. Angered by the actions of Tyson's entourage during their first pre-fight news conference together, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Bruno questioned whether Tyson learnt anything while serving a 3½-year prison sentence for rape. I

thought prison was supposed to wise you up and make you a better man," Bruno said. "He's getting worse, to be honest, both in the ring and out of the ring." He refrained from getting involved in a shouting match with the entourage, but later criticised Tyson for the actions of his supporters. "The way these people go on is not good for boxing," Bruno said. "I'm here to bring a little class to the sport." He brought his title belt with him, taking it out of a bag and placing it in front of him. With a £4 million purse awaiting him, he was quick to draw attention to the challenger's £20 million pay cheque. "I'm not a greedy man, but Tyson is getting 16 to 20 times more than I'm getting," Bruno said. "Would you be happy if you were the champion and were being treated like the challenger?" Bruno was the only one doing much talking, with Tyson making little or no effort to answer even the most

basic questions before bringing the news conference to an abrupt close. "I'm just confident in what I'm capable of doing," was a typically brusque response from the former champion. The only time he came close to revealing any of his thoughts about the fight was when he predicted he would beat Bruno. "It's interesting Mr Bruno is talking very brave and courageous," he said. "We'll see."

Photograph: Lennox McLendon

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 717 in association with  
BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS  
1 Companion of Gog (5)  
2 From the side (7)  
3 Rebels (7)  
4 OT bonic - Slope (7)  
5 Idler (US) soft shoc (6)  
6 Composition of manner (4-5)  
7 The Maid of Orleans (4,2,3)  
8 List of charges (6)  
9 Dog of unknown parentage (7)  
10 Unpaid player (7)  
11 Betrayal: fully-attended event (4-3)  
12 Simple song: sailor's bag (5)  
13 Behind time (4)

DOWN  
1 Inscribed metal as award (5)  
2 Coarse laugh (6)  
3 French wine: Robert —, poet (6)  
4 High male voice (4)  
5 —, I married him (Jane Eyre) (6)  
6 German Land, capital Munich (7)  
7 Humphrey —, film actor (6)  
8 Fund-raising lottery (6)  
9 Rank above major (7)  
10 Trifling fault, complaint (6)  
11 Baseline's rumour (6)  
12 Unspeaking (6)  
13 Sudden excursion (5)  
14 Behind time (4)

## City plan great rock'n'roll signing

By DAVID MADDOCK

OASIS, the rock band at No 1 in the charts with their single *'Don't Look Back in Anger'*, are negotiating to become sponsors of Manchester City Football Club. If a deal is struck, then the most famous name in British popular music at present will be emblazoned across the front of the team's sky blue shirt.

Frances Lee, the chairman of Manchester City, confirmed yesterday that he held a meeting with Noel Gallagher, the band's songwriter and guitarist, last week. The football club is sponsored now by Brother, the electronics firm, but the £650,000-a-year contract is close to expiring.

Lee is conducting negotiations to secure a new deal and

although talks are continuing with Brother about a renewal of their contract, he revealed that he has also talked with Gallagher, whom he met last week. It is understood that they discussed a package that will involve the band in a joint-sponsorship deal with another company that will see Oasis named as sponsors on the shirts.

"I met Noel Gallagher and we talked about sponsorship," Lee said. "We are talking with Brother, but it is no secret that there are other parties interested and we are talking to them as well. Noel seems interested in becoming involved and we welcome that."

The band members are diehard supporters of Manchester City. Gallagher and his brother, Liam, the

group's lead singer, come from Burnage, a suburb of Manchester, close to Moss Side, where the Maine Road stadium is situated. They recently opened City's new £6 million training complex and were delighted to find an executive dining area was named The Oasis Suite.

Oasis have also announced two concerts at the club's Maine Road ground in April, with the 40,000 capacity selling out within hours of going on sale. They have been introduced on the pitch at Maine Road and regularly attend the club's home matches.

A spokesman for the band's record company, Creation Records, confirmed last night that their interest in sponsorship was born from their lifelong support of the

## UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

Our rate  
is now down  
to its  
lowest ever

13.8% APR

13.8% APR is available on loans from £5,000 to £10,000. Loans for business or financial purposes are excluded. Rates are correct as at 28/01/96. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be aged 21 years or over and in receipt of a regular income. This offer is not available in the Isle of Man.

Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, an authorised institution under the Banking Act 1987. Registered Office: North Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 4TD. Registered in England No. 1117305.

## Skating world bids farewell to Grinkov

THE ice skating world gathered in Hartford, Connecticut, on Tuesday night to pay tribute to Sergei Grinkov, who died in November. Skaters from many parts of the globe performed in remembrance of Grinkov, who suffered a fatal heart attack while practising with his wife and partner, Ekaterina Gordeeva.

Many of the participants expressed their sadness at the end of a perfect partnership on and off the ice but Gordeeva, making her first appearance in public since her husband's death, spoke also of happiness. "I'm so happy this evening is happening," Gordeeva said after watching the all-star cast perform. "And I am so sad it is all over. I want to start it over again."

Gordeeva's own performance was the highlight of the night. "I want you to know I skated today not alone — I skated with Sergei," she said. "That is why I skated so good." Wearing a white and blue-grey dress, she began her programme, to Mahler's *Fifth Symphony*, with her hands out, as if a partner were holding it. Suddenly, she stopped, covering her face. Then, hands out, as if

searching for her lost husband, she raced around the ice.

Many skaters paid their tributes with laughter. Scott Hamilton surprised the audience with his bell-bottoms, vest with peace symbols and a long, brown mane as he danced and pranced to songs from

Hair. With a routine set to a medley of Elvis Presley songs, Alexander Fadeev twirled around a white cowboy hat while Katarina Witt was bewitching with her Melissa Etheridge number and tight black shorts.

Elena Bezhke and Denis Petrov, who often competed in pairs against Grinkov and Gordeeva, performed a routine about two lovers who could not be together, set to Khachaturyan's *Spartacus*.

Some performers said their goodbyes one more time. During Paul Wylie's performance to the soundtrack of *Apollo 13*, he blew a kiss to the heavens. Dressed in a black, flowing skirt, Oksana Baiul ended her performance of Schubert's *Die Forelle* on her knees and placed her hands in a praying position. "He will be in my heart forever, like my guardian angel," she said.

Among those watching was the couple's three-year-old daughter, Daria, who applauded every skater in turn and, at the end of the evening, joined her mother on the ice with the skaters crowded around them.



Grinkov: tributes

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network. THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 716  
ACROSS: 1 Root 3 Psalmist 8 Faience 10 Allow 11 Roman candle 13 Fester 15 Bediz 17 Bourgeoisie 20 Drift 21 Adding 22 Exercise 23 Prash  
DOWN: 1 Ruff-ruff 2 Odium 4 See-saw 5 Lo and behold 6 Illness 7 Town 9 Non sequitur 12 Strength 14 Sublime 16 Aghast 18 Sligo 19 Edge